1202 c 30

G. BARRINGTON,

Picking the pocket of J. BROWN, Esq.

*See Page* 11.

THE

# LIFE

OF

# GEORGE BARRINGTON

CONTAINING

## EVERY REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCE

From his BIRTH to the preſent TIME.

INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING TRIALS—

1. For robbing Mrs. Dudman
2. Elizabeth Ironmonger
3. Returning from Tranſportation
4. Robbing Sir G. Webſter
5. Mr. Bagſhaw
6. Mr. Le Meſurier
7. For Outlawry
8. For robbing Mr. Townſend.

WITH THE WHOLE OF HIS

## CELEBRATED SPEECHES,

Taken from the Records of King's Bench, Old Bailey, &c

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A Copy of a Letter from him at the Cape of Good-Hope

To a Gentleman in the County of York, dated 1ſt July, 1

LONDON:

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[PRICE SIX-PENCE]

# THE LIFE OF GEORGE BARRINGTON.

GEORGE BARRINGTON, alias Waldron, otherwiſe Jones, the hero of theſe Memoirs, was born at Ruſh in 1758, in the kingdom of Ireland. The name of his mother was Waldron, a milliner of that Town; that of his father Barrington, a captain belonging to a marching regiment then quartered at Ruſh. It does not appear after the ſtricteſt ſcrutiny, that our hero derived a ſingle particle from either of his parents, of that *compoſition* which has led him to be univerſally noticed, and generally deſpiſed; on the contrary, it ſeems to have been a quality infuſed after conception, but whether by terreſtrial or chaotic powers, cannot be accurately determined. As the merits of *great men* are frequently judged of by compariſon, it will not be unfair to liken our hero to the celebrated Bamfylde Moore Carew, who left a grammar ſchool and the moſt reſpectable and tender relations to embrace the life of an ignominious wanderer: —the only difference between them, may be thus marked.—The one was a *thieving beggar*; the other a *genteel pickpocket*; they were both men of education and of talents which they both ſacrificed to the ſame degrees of proſtitution. The memoirs of one ſerved to guard the Public againſt the tricks of a company of villains, who rob under the ſpecious maſk of ſoliciting charity; while thoſe of the other will be no leſs, if not more ſerviceable, in guarding againſt a ſpecies of robbery which may ſometimes oppreſs an individual beyond the poſſibility of reparation. On this ſcore, the following ſheets may be recommended for general peruſal: as nothing can be ſaid on the plea of *imitation*, it is hoped the picture will ſerve to *forewarn* and *deter*.

The father of Mr Barrington, during his infancy, beſtowed on him the moſt ſedulous attention and care; marks of affection to his offſpring which by no means excite aſtoniſhment, as he behaved with the ſtricteſt honour and reſpect to his *wife*. At the age of ſix years, the child was removed to Dublin, and placed under the general direction of a Mr. Jones, an apothecary, who put him to a common academy, where he continued one year, and was then removed to a grammar ſchool. Here he remained till the age of twelve, having been engaged in full as much miſchief and diſplayed as much ingenuity, as might be expected from one of his years.

Mr. Jones, who was not deterred by the eccentric talents which our hero had, on ſome particular occaſions manifeſted, about this took him into his houſe, in order to inſtruct him in the buſineſs of

apothecary, and man-midwife: nor is there little doubt but that he would ſhortly have rivalled the moſt noted ſons of Eſculapius, if the bent of his inclinations had not unfortunately led him to the ſtudy of conſtructing chirurgical inſtruments! This was a mark of ingenuity which did not altogether pleaſe his maſter; but then it was conſidered that this propenſity might in the end prove of the moſt beneficial conſequences to the profeſſion, and to mankind in general; it being well known that many diſorders, deemed incurable, are in themſelves eaſily removed when once the ſurgeon can penetrate to the ſource of the miſchief. This conſideration for a time induced Mr. Jones to overlook the great inconvenience which his buſineſs ſuſtained while his pupil was running after the moſt eminent inſtrument makers which the city afforded—while he ſpent his time in giving them directions for improvements, which were then looked upon to be merely theoretical—and while he even aſſiſted in the more laborious parts of completing them.

Thus paſſed on his time, till he had attained the age of ſixteen; an age when youth in general, with a too greedy eye, look haſtily forward towards manhood. If this be a fault with many others, it was particularly ſo with the ſubject of theſe Memoirs; he forgot the duty he owed his maſter, and the parental allegiance and gratitude which were due to his indulgent friends; he ruſhed precipitately into the vortex of diſſipation; frequented all the places of public entertainment; and at length contracted an intimacy with a female, named Ranby, whoſe *extravagance* being ſtrictly proportioned to her *chaſtity*, our hero was led into the greateſt pecuniary embarraſſments.

Captain Barrington had been in America for ſome time; but he contrived to render his abſence as eaſy as poſſible to his family, by the moſt exact and liberal remittances of which his income would admit. The part allotted to the young apothecary, however was now wholly inadequate to his diſburſements; he had an amour on his hands, and, beſides, found himſelf formed for the enjoyment of ſociety.

We ſhould be ſorry intentionally, to record an untruth, though reflecting on a character which calumny cannot wound; but the chain of narration compels us to obſerve our duty as faithful biographers; from which no trifling conſideration ſhall induce us to depart. About this period, an Iriſh Member of Parliament being at the Dublin Theatre, found his pocket picked; and ſuſpicion falling on our hero, who was preſent, he was for the firſt time taken into cuſtody; and ſeveral curious inſtruments found on him, which at firſt appeared to be conſtructed for the purpoſe of facilitating the art of diving.—But when he declared himſelf the apprentice of Mr. Jones, and that the implements in queſtion were no more than what belonged to ſurgeons, which he had improved, the appearance of guilt vaniſhed, and he was honourably ſet at liberty.

Not long after this, Mr. Jones miſſed a twenty pound note, and ſeven guineas; which from circumſtances, appeared to have been purloined

purloined by his apprentice; he therefore, without much ſcruple, charged him with committing the robbery; but the young man having a deceptive ſmile of conſcious innocence on his countenance—and his miſtreſs being inclined to favour his proteſtations—his maſter dropped the enquiry.

From the little ſucceſs which attended the firſt eſſays of our hero, a mortal of leſs reſolution than himſelf would have been for ever diſcouraged from ſimilar attempts. But it was not ſo with him; like the amorous lover, deſpair only ſerved to increaſe his perſeverance. To this he was in ſome meaſure encouraged, by the fair partner of his tender hours; ſhe, too had an irreſiſtable impulſe for the ſame lucrative calling; but, after her connection with Barrington, her ſucceſs ſeeemed to have borne equal and juſt proportion with his own: for, in 1774, ſhe was detected in attempting the gold watch of the Biſhop of K——, who contented himſelf with reading her a moral admonition on the turpitude of her conduct, and the probable conſequences which muſt reſult from ſuch deteſtable purſuits. Notwithſtanding the effect which ſuch pious advice ſeemed to have for the moment, ſhe repaired, the very ſame evening, in company with her favourite paramour, to Rider's theatre, where ſhe picked the pocket of Lord M-m-s, ſhe was inſtantly ſecured, but no property being found on her perſon, ſhe was about to receive liberation when Barrington was charged by ſome one preſent as her accomplice? he was accordingly ſearched, & a watch found concealed in his breeches. In conſequence of this detection they were both the next day, committed to priſon; and moſt probably would have ſuffered the vengeance of the law, had not Lord M-m-s recollected Captain Barrington, for whom he had the higheſt reſpect; and this reſpect it was, which induced him to drop the rigorous part of the proſecution; and the culprits were liberated after a ſhort confinement.

The *ſcandal* of this *unfortunate* tranſaction—added to the advice of friends—induced our hero to accept the office of ſurgeon's mate, on board a ſhip bound from Dublin to the Weſt Indies. He made one voyage only in this manner, arriving at London in another ſhip, about the beginning of the year 1785.

In the month of April, of the ſame year, he made his *firſt appearance* at Bow-ſtreet, under the name of Brown, on the charge of robbing a lady's pocket of a purſe; but the evidence being none of the cleareſt, he was diſcharged.

So ſhort lived was his career after this circumſtance, that in the following July he was again brought before the above reſpectable tribunal, on a charge of having converted to his own uſe the watch of Captain Sunderland, for which offence he was ſent to priſon; however, before the ſeſſions began, it happened that his proſecutor, who had purſued him with the greateſt inveteracy, was ordered to America, in conſequence of which the fortunate Barrington once more emerged from confinement.

Soon after this *affair*, he became acquainted with the celebrated Miſs Weſt; and that, too, in a manner which highly demands at-

tention. Being one evening at Covent Garden theatre on ſpecial buſineſs, it ſo happened that Miſs Weſt attended that night on the ſame occaſion; and what is extraordinary, they happened to be ſeated cloſe to each other, and both unacquainted with their reſpective avocations, it happened, naturally enough to be ſure—for the ſcience of *phyſiognomy* was not then in very high repute—that Miſs Weſt ſelected our hero as a proper object of her ſkill; and no ſooner had ſhe reſolved on the matter, than ſhe found herſelf in poſſeſſion of a handkerchief which abounded with the moſt curious inſtruments, of the manufactory of which we have already ſpoken? which ſo highly charmed her, that ſhe called the owner aſide; and giving him a *Maſonic* hint, an explanation enſued: after the play, the lady took her new found brother home to her lodging: and before they parted—which was not till the next morning—many *tender* civilities paſſed, and many were the leſſons which Miſs Weſt beſtowed on the hero of theſe Memoirs: for, though he might be allowed to excel ſo far as theory was uſeful, ſhe certainly knew much more of a more eſſential requiſite—the practical part. Theſe preliminaries were certainly neceſſary, previous to a partnerſhip account, which immediately commenced; and, however fortunate their firſt progreſs might have been, we find them involved together in robbing Mr. Day of his watch at the Pantheon: Miſs Weſt purloined it, and Barrington acted as the receiver: an office by the bye, which of late he might have diſpoſed of to ſome of his friends with much advantage to himſelf.

The matter was, however, ſo exceedingly well managed, that the evidence on the trial was incompetent to a conviction; and Weſt and Co. were acquitted.

We muſt of neceſſity paſs over ſeveral ſecondary acts of injuſtice which occurred, till the year 1776, when Barrington was examined before Sir John Fielding, on a charge of robbing Miſs Hurſt of a ſilver watch and about five pounds. Though his favourite and inſtructreſs was preſent at the time, ſhe had the good fortune to eſcape obſervation; while her aſſociate was doomed to a few gloomy weeks in Tothill Fields Bridewell. This however, was the only inconvenience he ſuſtained, as the Grand Jury did not find the bill.

Inſpirited in ſome degree, at length, by theſe repeated obſtacles to riſing fame, and certain emolument, he ſketched a plan for a knife with 3 joints, and took it to a Cutler near the King's Mews, who undertook and completed the inſtrument in a ſhort time, for which he received two guineas. This good man being afflicted with a diſorder which is common to mankind, namely, impertinent curioſity, aſked his employer [not being acquainted with his rank] the uſe of the knife, on which, apparently, ſo much money had been needleſsly laviſhed? But, before our hero condeſcended to gratify his deſires, he ſeriouſly demanded of him a ſerious queſtion: and that was, if he would or could keep a ſecret?—Anſwering in the affirmative as moſt people do, without paying the ſmalleſt reſpect to the injunction, Barrington without farther ceremony informed him that

it

it was a device for the more effectually picking pockets! "To pick pockets!" replied the aſtoniſhed cutler; "Really I ſhall be much obliged, if you will ſhew me in what manner you mean to turn it to account?—"O certainly by all means," replied Barrington. "When I find myſelf in a croud, and in pretty near contact with my object, I mean to uſe the firſt joint only, which is much eaſier of acceſs to a cloſe pocket than hand, however ſmall. If at a little diſtance, the ſecond joint will beſt anſwer the purpoſe. But if yet further off, it is eaſy to perceive that the third joint muſt be reſorted to. Further, in caſe of a miſchance, either or all the joints may be replaced in an inſtant; and who will be hardy enough to conſtrue a common knife to be intended for the purpoſe in queſtion!"

The cutler, whatever might have been his private opinion of the good or evil of the general deſign, could not reſiſt his admiration at the gentleman's ingenuity; and it is well known that when calamity, or joy, affect us, the firſt effort of the human mind is to communicate the reſult to the boſom friend. In ſtrict conformity to this paſſion, the cutler repaired, without loſs of time, to his wife, between whom enſued the following converſation;

*Cutler.* Who do you think, my dear, the knife was for?

*Wife.* How ſhould I know quotha!

*Cutler.* Why, for a pickpocket.

*Wife.* O Lord! I hope not! I hope not!

*Cutler.* Indeed, my dear, but it was ſo; and he paid me very well for it too, and let me into the ſecret into the bargain. *Here* is the caſh—*(putting his hand into his pocket)*—It is not here though—I have left it on the counter——John, bring me the two guineas I left in the ſhop.——

*John:* Here is no money here, Sir! upon my word Sir!

*Cutler.* Perdition ſeize the ſcoundrel! he has ſhewn his tricks with a vengeance; he has picked my pocket of two guineas and a half! O Lord! O Lord; that ever I ſhould be ſuch a gull!——But well, well, what is done, cannot be undone——He is a d——d clever fellow; and I may as well forgive him.

Whether by means of this new invented inſtrument or whether by run of good fortune, we cannot determine; but certain it is that our hero, with his amiable companion, continued for ſome time to enjoy a comfortable ſtate of affluence; he keeping his nag, which enabled him to viſit in ſtile the Races, Fairs, and ſuch other public places of entertainment, while ſhe frequented both the winter theatres, and that of the Haymarket; viſited the Pantheon, and the Opera Houſe, at which places her ſalary was full as much as that allowed by the Public in other places to her partner. Sometimes indeed, it was neceſſary that he ſhould attend her; but it was all requiſite that he ſhould diſguiſe himſelf, ſometimes as a footman, and ſometimes in other capacities of leſs and of greater conſequence.

But one of the moſt brilliant acts in which Barrington was concerned, happened in the latter end of the year 1775; when Prince Orlow, a Ruſſian nobleman, paid a viſit to this country. Whether;

by means of his domeſtics, or from his own oſtentation, we cannot ſay; but an elegant and valuable gold ſnuff-box ſet with brilliants, the property of this nobleman, was much talked of; no ſooner had the intelligence reached our redoubted hero, than he inſtantly reſolved to get it into his own poſſeſſion; an enterprize which few, beſides himſelf, would ſcarcely have undertaken. The injury which his character had already ſuſtained, precluded him from all hopes of introducing himſelf on any pretence whatever; he therefore determined to obſerve an opportunity when the Prince might viſit ſome public place to get near him. He did not long pant for an occaſion of this kind; at Covent Garden theatre he actually got cloſe enough to the Prince, and conveyed the valuable prize from the waiſtcoat pocket of that nobleman into his own; but not in ſo dexterous a manner, as to eſcape detection; the nobleman felt the loſs, and inſtantly ſeized the unfortunate Barrington; a ſcuffle and uproar enſued—in the midſt of which, he, in as ſecret a manner as poſſible, ſlid the box into the owner's hand: and, though to regain it was an object of little importance, the thief was ſecured, and afterwards committed to Tothill Fields, Bridewell. In a ſhort time he was taken before Sir John Fielding, who not only interrogated him on the ſubject of the fact in queſtion, but alſo on that of his family, and his manner of living. In anſwer to all which, he anſwered with much ſeeming contrition, breaking his words with tears perhaps that could ſtart on ſuitable occaſions; for, though we at this time find him liberated, from the great humanity of his proſecutor, we do not obſerve that this penitence was followed by reform, but the very contrary. Previous to this action, he had enjoyed the regard of ſome few, who admired his talents and enjoyed his converſation: but this circumſtance becoming public, he had the mortification to find himſelf wholly deſerted; his perſon was avoided like infection, which perhaps from the ſenſibility he poſſeſſed was as great a ſubject of regret as any ſubſequent degradation inflicted by the law, in his more advanced ſtate of hardineſs.

A few weeks after this occurrence we have juſt related, he was recognized by a Mr. G——, in the Lobby of the Houſe of Lords, at a time when an intereſting queſtion was in agitation. Mr. G——, who well knew the object of his attendance, communicated the intelligence to the uſher of the Black Rod, who cauſed him to be diſgracefully puſhed out, telling him at the ſame time the cauſe, and the name of the gentleman who had given the intimation. Scarcely knowing how to conduct himſelf in ſo diſagreeable a ſituation, he vowed revenge againſt Mr. G——, whoſe conduct he thought unjuſtifiable, and inſolent beyond the reach of forgiveneſs, Mr. G—, hearing of the menaces, obtained a warrant againſt him, in order to bind him to preſerve the peace; but Barrington, being unable to procure ſecurities was committed to Tothill Fields, Bridewell, where he continued for a great length of time.

After his liberation, we hear nothing of him till he was taken up for robbing Mrs Dudman of half-a-guinea, in the Pit of Drury Lane theatre; the next morning he was taken to Bow Street, and committed

mitted to Newgate for trial at the Old Bailey, for the firſt time!

George Barrington was indicted for ſtealing a pair of ſtuds, a purſe, half-a-guinea, and three and ſixpence, the property of Ann Dudman,

She ſwore poſitively to his picking her pocket, and took the purſe out of his hand; which was corroborated by other witneſſes.

This tranſaction happened on the 18th of December, 1776, at Drury-Lane Play-houſe, when the King and Queen were there.

## DEFENCE.

*My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury.*

THE evidence which is come before your Lordſhip and theſe Gentlemen, I hope you will not think ſufficient to convict a man of the crime of felony. I ſhall relate the tranſaction as briefly as poſſible. I was in the play-houſe in that part of the pit which is called the ſtanding part; and it was ſo very crouded, that the doors were obliged to be ſcrewed up, in order to puſh the people in. The ſeats were all taken; and thoſe that were in the ſtanding part, were endeavouring as faſt as they could, to procure ſeats. The croud was ſo great, that they hurt each other: this lady was before me, making towards a ſeat. I, as every perſon then preſent, was doing the ſame; and ſhe cried out, that ſome perſon had their hand in her pocket, and that ſhe had taken her purſe out of their hand: ſhe looked round immediately, and fixed upon me, at the ſame time that ſhe was ſurrounded by many people, that it was a minute at leaſt before ſhe could turn round. I immediately profeſſed my innocence, and called on the company to declare whether it was poſſible for ſuch a tranſaction to happen without ſome perſon being privy to it, and ſeeing it in ſuch a place where ſo many people were aſſembled together; and every gentleman who was preſent, was of the ſame opinion, and was unanimous in ſaying, they were certain I was innocent.

My Lord and Gentlemen, upwards of five minutes had paſſed in this altercation, and the noiſe in ſome meaſure had ſubſided; but ſome gentlemen who had loſt their property in the play-houſe that night, hearing a rumour, came immediately and declared, if there was a ſuſpected perſon there, it was neceſſary he ſhould give ſatisfaction and clear himſelf; that he ſhould retire to ſome place and be ſearched. To this I aſſented, and was retiring at the time with ſeveral people who were there, when we were met by the conſtable who told me I muſt go before Sir John Fielding. When we were there, I was ſearched, my property was taken from me, and detained for eight days; and then returned, becauſe no perſon would claim a ſingle article. If the evidence this lady has given is ſufficient to convict me of the crime, it is in the power of any one to take away the life or liberty of any perſon whatever. Such a crime as this could never happen in ſuch a place, without ſome perſon being witneſs to it. The lady might have found a hand in her pocket, and her fear might make her believe the man had her purſe in his hand, as ſhe had taken it out; but the croud was ſo exceeding great, that it was impoſſible to turn; the whole were crying

they were ſo exceedingly ſqueezed, and I hope it will have weight with the Gentlemen of the Jury.

I have mentioned juſt now that it was ſo exceedingly crouded that if ſuch a tranſaction had happened, it was almoſt impoſſible to fix on the perſon. The Lady (I do not mean to reflect upon her, but I am obliged to take hold of every circumſtance in order to extricate myſelf.) The lady is blind of one eye; this I conceive, adds to the impoſſibility of fixing on the identity of a perſon, and I would beg leave to aſk the lady if ſhe is acquainted with a Mr. Groves?

*Dudman.* Yes my Lord. I received this letter from the priſoner.

Madam,

I am happy to embrace the opportunity which preſents itſelf of addreſſing to you a few lines, relative to a proſecution which you have lately commenced. I am convinced, Madam, that you are poſſeſſed of humanity, therefore hope, that you will feel for my unhappy ſituation; deplorable as it is, you have it in your power to extricate me from it, without ſuſtaining the ſmalleſt injury.

The Grand Jury are to find the bill to-morrow at Guildhall, and it depends on your evidence to have the bill found or rejected. What ſhall I ſay, or in what words ſhall I addreſs you, innocent or guilty? I have ſuffered ſeverely——ſuffered more than you can think or ſuppoſe. My character, if not totally loſt, is injured in the higheſt degree; my confinement, and the manner in which I have been expoſed, I ſhall not mention; though I am certain they muſt have the greateſt weight in a humane and feeling mind, and by ſuch would be conſidered as a ſufficient puniſhment for a guilty perſon.——May this conſideration animate your heart, and induce you to put a ſtop to a proſecution, which cannot be attended by any agreeable reflection. Though I have received every aſſurance of ſafety, from thoſe who are verſed in affairs of this nature, yet the thoughts of appearing in a Court of Juſtice, where the greateſt innocence is ſometimes ineffectual, compells me to addreſs you in this manner; and to intrude upon a gentleman, whom I hear is acquainted with you, to deliver this letter, and to uſe his good offices; hoping they will be effectual. Convinced that you are ſuperior to intereſt, or being made an inſtrument, and with the greateſt reliance upon your feeling and ſenſibility,

I remain,
With the greateſt Reſpect,
Your obedient humble ſervant,
*GEORGE BARRINGTON.*

*Cold-bath-fields, Bridewell.*

*Guilty*—ſent on board the ballaſt lighters for three years.

Barrington being now ſafely lodged on board the Hulk, at Woolwich, his aſſociate and friend Miſs Weſt, was compelled to ſtand & execute alone: not that ſhe found herſelf at any mighty loſs; but the forcible impreſſions made on her feelings by the loſs of ſo near

near a favourite, oppreſſed her ſpirits, and rendered dormant for a ſhort time, that inherent vigour for active life, which ſhe had hitherto conſtantly diſplayed. To ſoothe the gloomy hours of captivity as much as poſſible, ſhe conſtantly ſent Mr. Barrington 2 guineas per week, and paid him perſonal viſits as often as opportunity would permit. In one of theſe excurſions, ſhe fell into the company of the celebrated David Brown Dignum, who then belonged to Mr. Campbell's academy; and who having plenty of caſh, was ſelected as a proper object for the diſplay of this lady's talents, and ſhe actually perpetrated the deed in the midſt of the ſeat of puniſhment, and congratulated herſelf not a little on the brilliancy of her ſucceſs. But Barrington, who always ſtrongly ſupported the common maxim, that there is honeſty among thieves, compelled her to reſtore the plunder; though much againſt her inclinations.

This audacious woman, was, in all, tried ſeven times at the Old Bailey; four of which ſhe was acquitted, and found guilty the other three. The laſt public offence ſhe committed, was on the 14th of February, 1777, when ſhe robbed Gilbert Affleck, Elq; of a watch, chain, and ſeals, value 8l. and was detected in endeavouring to hand it to an aſſociate, diſguiſed with a black patch over his eye. She was found Guilty by the Jury, and ſentenced to three years impriſonment in Newgate.

About the expiration of her time, ſhe caught the gaol diſtemper; and died in a fortnight after her diſcharge had taken place—thus yielding up her laſt breath, in perfect conformity with the infamous tenor of her life.

Barrington was detected in St. Paul's Cathedral, picking the pocket of Mrs. Montague, of two guineas and ſeven ſhillings; he was taken to the Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard; where, aſking leave of the Conſtable that had him in cuſtody, to go into the yard, he got over the wall into Pater-noſter Row, and effected an eſcape.

Barrington got into company with John Brown, Eſq. of Brandford, and while he was in converſation with him, picked his pocket of forty guineas, a gold watch, and ſeals: with this booty he made ſhift to live till he was apprehended for robbing Elizabeth Ironmonger.

G. Barrington was indicted for ſtealing a watch, a ſilk watch ſtring, a ſeal ſet in metal, the property of Elizabeth Ironmonger, privately from her perſon, March 15, 1778.

As ſoon as the jury were charged with the priſoner, he addreſſed the court as follows:

*Priſoner.* My Lord, before I enter upon my trial I ſhall beg leave to inform your Lordſhip, that ſeveral articles, my property are now in the hands of the conſtable. At my examination before the magiſtrate, who is I ſee ſitting upon the bench, when I requeſted they might be reſtored, he aſſured me that after they had been advertiſed a few days I ſhould certainly have them. They have been repeatedly advertiſed for theſe ſix weeks paſt, and they are now detained. Your Lordſhip will, I hope previous to my trial, order them to be returned; they are my own property, and cannot

cannot be produced as evidence againſt me.

*Court.* If you are entitled to them, you will have them again. We muſt wait the event of this proſecution.

*Priſoner.* With your Lordſhip's permiſſion, and with all the reſpect and reverence due to a Court, diſtinguiſhed for its juſtice and humanity, I will humbly beg leave to offer a few words which I truſt will deſerve the attention of my jury. I believe it will almoſt be unneceſſary to mention what the newſpapers themſelves ſufficiently witneſs, that every poſſible endeavour has been made uſe of, which the channel of a newſpaper can afford, to repreſent me to the public in a moſt infamous point of view. The facts have been miſrepreſented and exaggerated, but I truſt that ſenſible and impartial minds, ſuch as I hope my jury are compoſed of, will not be influenced by newſpaper invectives. They cannot but know that it is both cruel and unjuſt to form an opinion of a man by the character given him by mercenary hirelings; they cannot be ignorant that newſpapers in general are white and blak and black and white.

*Elizabeth Ironmonger, Sworn.*

Elizabeth Ironmonger depoſed, that ſhe went to St. Pulhre's Church to hear a Charity Sermon, and miſſed her watch.

Mr. Payne apprehended Barrington, and on ſearching him the watch dropped from his hair; there was alſo found upon him, another watch, 13 guineas, and a ten pound note.

PRISONER's DEFENCE.

I have no occaſion to mention that every poſſible art has been made uſe of to draw me before the public eye. The daily papers have been filled with paragraphs againſt me; they have loaded me with a liberality bordering on profuſion, with the epithets of notorious, infamous & abandoned; yet infamous & abandoned as they would have me appear, this is the ſecond time of my being tried in any court, while offenders more atrocious, that have viſited this and other [illegible], have eſcaped without even theſe epithets ſo plentifully caſt upon me. If hitherto I have unhappily fallen into the commiſſion of a crime, it is not to be inferred from thence that I am guilty, or muſt always be ſo; and I beg you to conſider, gentlemen, if I have offended the laws I have likewiſe ſuffered the puniſhment they have inflicted, nor would they have been mitigated, if ſigns of reformation had not marked the unhappy object; good men will charitably ſuppoſe it to have been genuine; and notwithſtanding the preſent charge alledged againſt me, it is very poſſible that it might have been entirely ſo; ſome I know have put the worſt conſtruction upon it; yet ſurely it would be but conſiſtent with their duty, as chriſtians and fellow creatures, to have refrained from infamouſly prejudging a trial. I flatter myſelf their deſigns will be fruſtrated; nor would I think, even for a moment, that my life would be paragraphed away, or that my jury would caſt me before I came into court. I have been viſited ſince I have been in confinement by a variety of perſons, ſome led thro' curioſity, others from feeling and compaſſion. I was informed that Payne the conſtable had boaſted in his convivial hours that I could not fall

into

into worſe hands (alluding to himſelf;) that he would certainly hang me, and boaſting his influence with the citizens of London. You, gentlemen, are the beſt judges whether he has endeavoured to prejudice your minds againſt me. I am firmly perſuaded that there is not a man among you but what will lay his hand upon his heart, and ſay, he is unprejudiced and uninfluenced. Gentlemen, I am convinced from many circumſtances, that this man would perſuſe me with the utmoſt rigour; however you will be guided with candour, and will determine agreeable to the language of your oath, according to the evidence before you.

My profeſſion of a ſurgeon occaſioned me a viſit on Sunday morning from a perſon then under my care. In the courſe of our converſation he informed me that ſeveral eminent performers, and particularly two ladies, famed for their muſic and ſkill, were that morning to perform at St. Sepulchre's church, for the beneſit of the humane Society. As I had from my infancy, a taſte for muſick, I went thither; I found the church ſo full that I could not find a ſeat. In leaving the church I found the article in the indictment, a metal watch; I put it in my pocket intending to advertiſe it. I then left the church; I had ſcarce reach'd Snow Hill, when two men who were behind me, and might have ſeen me pick up the article, inſiſted on my accompanying them to the watch-houſe; a ſearch enſued; Payne took my gold watch and left the other, he alſo took from me a bank note made payable to myſelf. I reflected that how innocently ſoever I might have obtained the article in queſtion, that yet it might cauſe ſome cenſure, and no man would wonder, conſidering the unhappy predicament I then ſtood in, that I ſhould conceal it as much as poſſible. I did not put it into my hair, as has been inſinuated. While he left me there, I reflected as I have told your Lordſhip. Payne came in a ſhort ſpace of time & brought a perſon who profeſſed loſing a conſiderable number of articles; I was ſearched afreſh, & then the watch & the purſe were taken; I was that evening committed to the Compter; the next morning I was taken before a magiſtrate, were a lady depoſed, that the watch I had found was her property; the evidence was in effect the ſame which ſhe has now given, I therefore think it unneceſſary to animadvert upon it, but beg to make a remark or two upon the conſiſtency of the evidence

Payne depoſes, that he found upon me the watch in queſtion; ſo far he is right, but the other circumſtances he has related, flow from a black and cruel imagination: he thinks that the reputation of the little Engliſh carpenter, as he is pleaſed to ſtile himſelf, will not be complete without he follows it with my conviction. His frequent appearance upon theſe occaſions, will not, I hope, entitle him to any degree of credit. Loſt to every juſt and tender feeling, deſtitute of means of ſenſibility and deſtitute of any knowledge of the nature and conſequence of an oath; he kiſſes the book with as much apathy and unconcern as he would do any indifferent thing whatſoever. Little credit will be paid to a man noticed as a common informer: ſwearing has for many years, been his practice & profeſſ

ſion; but of theſe matters, you, gentlemen, are certainly the beſt judges.

My jury I doubt not, will keep in mind that maxim of the Engliſh law, whoſe humanity would ſpare the lives of ten guilty perſons, rather than run the riſk that one innocent man ſhould ſuffer: our laws permit a man to avail himſelf of a good character, but will not let him ſuffer by a bad one.

If I have ſaid any thing improper, my ſituation, I hope, will plead my excuſe. I have not falſely or maliciouſly endeavoured to depreciate the character of any man: I have confined myſelf to a notorious truth. I ſhall deſiſt treſpaſſing any longer upon the patience of your Lordſhip and the Jury, with a ſincere hope that prejudice will be entirely laid aſide, and that I ſhall enjoy the benefit of a candid, cool. and deliberate judgement.

GUILTY of ſtealing the watch, but not of ſtealing it privately from the perſon.

*Priſoner.* My Lord, permit me, before I leave this place humbly to appeal to the feelings and humanity of your Lordſhip; after conviction it is not my intention to arraign the juſtice and impartiality of the Jury; but my Lord, I am a young man, there was a time when I had as little reaſon to expect the diſtreſs and miſery that I now ſuffer as any man's ſon in this place; nor need I to inform your Lordſhip that mercy has always been conſidered as the darling attribute of heaven. I am a young man, I am by profeſſion a ſurgeon, let me be permitted to enter into his Majeſty's ſervice, and I will endeavour to diſcharge my truſt with aſſiduity and attention; if that favour cannot be granted, let me be baniſhed his Majeſty's dominions during my life.

Gentlemen of the jury, I hope you will ſecond my petition, and may your children and children's children, never experience the miſery I now ſuffer.

*Court.* You very well know where to make your application for a mitigation of your ſentence, if you think the circumſtances will deſerve it.

*Priſoner.* I humbly requeſt that what trifling property has been taken from me may be reſtored to me: I had not the opportunity of enjoying the benefit of an act by which a perſon is enabled to diſpoſe of his property previous to his trial. I hope that will be no impediment to my having it.

*William Payne.* I delivered all the money and the bank note to him in Newgate.

*Court.* Your property, now you are convicted, is no longer your own, but belongs to the king, the king has granted it to the City of London, therefore the city and the ſheriffs are the perſons for you to apply to.

He was ſent on board the ballaſt lighter for five years, where he remained near four, and then obtained a pardon on condition of tranſporting himſelf out of the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: but in a ſhort time after his leaving Woolwich, he was taken up for not fulfilling the condition of his Majeſty's pardon.

On January 20, 1783, he was put to the Bar, being charged on oath of James Boyick, for not fulfilling the conditions of his Majeſty's

jeſty's pardon, granted to him on the 30th of April, 1782, when he addreſſed the Court to the following purport.

*My LORD,*

I truſt your Lordſhip will bear with me a few minutes. I was ſentenced five years to hard labour on the Thames. The ſentence was, I believe a very rare and ſevere one; after four years were paſt, colds that I had repeatedly caught, ulcerated my lungs, and labour often exceeding my ſtrength by day, and putrified air by night, had greatly reduced and waſted my frame; the ſurgeons finding that the uſual medicines were not ſufficient, applied to the ſuperintendant, and obtained a milk and vegetable diet for me; this was a regimen never allowed there, but like extreme unction to thoſe that were at the point of death; growing worſe and worſe, I petitioned for a remiſſion of my ſentence: In conſequence of this I was ſhortly after freely liberated; and whatever reports may have been propogated to my diſadvantage, I have done nothing ſince that day, that a man need be aſhamed of; but my Lord, I have learned that a man whoſe character has been once blemiſhed will always be ſuſpected; I was merely for a name apprehended, and ſometime afterwards I underſtood that detainers were lodged againſt me for not fulfilling the conditions of my pardon; I will appeal to the court, whether it was not contrary to every principle of juſtice, equity, and law, when a very ſevere ſentence was nearly expired, to ſaddle me with the condition of being tranſported for ever; of being a fugitive for ever from my native country, which would of itſelf have been conſidered a very ſevere ſentence. My Lord, knowing that I had aſſerted nothing but facts, I ſubpœned Mr. Campbell, and the ſurgeons attending the Hulks; the ſurgeons were to ſpeak the ſtate of my health that I was in a deep decline, and Mr. Campbell, that he might ſpeak to my behaviour. My Lord, no man who has any thing to fear will ſubpœna his proſecutor, and Mr. Campbell was mine; for theſe reaſons my Lord, I humbly truſt that neither prejudices, nor falſehoods, nor plauſible pretences, nor uncharitable reports, will deprive me of that candour and juſtice, which ſo eminently diſtinguiſh your Lordſhip; I truſt you will conſider my long ſufferings; I truſt you will conſider my behaviour, and the ſtate I am now in, labouring under a nervous fever and ſhortneſs of breath.

*Court.* In point of law, I can do little more than explain to you the ſituation in which you now ſtand: upon what grounds his Majeſty thought fit to grant you that pardon at all, or granting it to annex the conditions it is not my buſineſs to enquire; no doubt his Majeſty was actuated by his uſual wiſdom and goodneſs; probably it was thought from the offences of which you had before been convicted, that you were an unfit perſon to be truſted at large within this kingdom, where you might have formed bad connections, and that it was better for yourſelf and the public, that you ſhould leave it, but whatever the motives were, his Majeſty's pardon now appears; that pardon is the only excuſe you can have for not being at this moment on board the hulks, to which you were ſentenced;

ſentenc'd; the conſequence of your being any where elſe but there would be, that this court would be bound by act of Parliament, and have no diſcretionary power, to ſentence you to be ſent back for double the term; you have ſaid much of the ſeverity of tranſporting yourſelf out of this kingdom, and not returning during your life; but you ſhould obſerve, that the ſentence of baniſhment, which is the condition of that pardon of ſimple baniſhment, is a much milder ſentence than tranſportation; becauſe by tranſportation the place of deſtination is fixed, and the ſubject has not a right to go to any other part, nor that part of the world of his own liberty; but his perſon is transferred in a ſtate of ſervitude and ſlavery during that term; and the property of that ſervice and labour is aſſigned to the perſons who contract with the court: not ſo with the condition to remove yourſelf from that ſociety, which you have ſo grievouſly offended, and not to return to it again! but whatever might be the motives of his Majeſty, a pardon is produced as the reaſon of your being at large; by the condition of which, you were to leave the kingdom within ten days & never to return: theſe ten days are expired, & you are in this kingdom; you have therefore broken that condition; it does not follow from any ſentence of the court, but it follows from the act and operation of the law itſelf; which is, that if the condition of his Majeſty's pardon is broken, the perſon to whom that pardon is granted, remains in the ſame ſituation that he would have been if that pardon had not been granted; that I conceive to be the clear law; the only enquiry that the court can make, is, that ſituation you were in at the time of his Majeſty's pardon: in that ſituation you are now: it is a ſituation of having a certain time to ſerve on board the lighters, if your ill health is ſuch now, as to render it dangerous for you to ſerve the time, that will be a reaſon for your being detained, till you can be with ſafety removed; or it may be a ground for a further extenſion of his Majeſty's mercy: but at preſent the conſequence of the law muſt follow: which conſequence is, that you remain in the ſame ſituation that you were in at the time of his Majeſty's pardon; having then a time to ſerve on board the lighter; that term you have to remain there; and you muſt now be detained in cuſtody for that purpoſe, and remanded under your former ſentence.

*Priſoner.* My Lord, my diſeaſe is of ſuch a nature, it is not in the power of medicine to relieve me, if I go down to that place; certain death muſt be the reſult.

*Court.* It will be ſome ſhort time before you can at any rate be removed: If you are in a ſtate that renders that removal unſafe, you will not be removed, but you muſt repreſent your ſituation to his Majeſty, for the power reſts with the King alone.

Being now once more ſentenced to his former ignominy, he had time to reflect on his imprudence of conduct, and he appears to have had a ſenſe of his error, and a reſolution, if he ſhould obtain a ſecond pardon, to reform. Under ſuch impreſſions, he appears to have written the two following letters; to the firſt of which dated Juſtitia Hulk, January 4, 1781, an anſwer was tranſmitted, which does

does not make its appearance, and in return to that the ſecond letter, dated February 16, 1781, was alſo written, to which no anſwer appears to have been ſent. Theſe two letters were directed to a very worthy and well known clergyman of the church of England, and are as follow:

*Juſtitia Hulk, January* 4, 1781.

*Rev. SIR,*

THOUGH a ſtranger to your perſon, I am acquainted with the virtues which adorn your character. You have been repreſented to me as a gentleman aſſiduous in the performance of all the duties preſcribed by your holy office, and poſſeſſing a heart teeming with philanthrophy and benevolence, even to the meaneſt and moſt abject of your fellow creatures.

From thence I am led to hope, that the freedom I uſe in addreſſing you on this occaſion, will readily meet with your pardon; and I am more encouraged to hope this, as it is not to ſolicit for myſelf, but merely to pity an unfortunate young man, who has often ſpoke of you in the higheſt terms of reſpect, gratitude and veneration. Undoubtedly Rev. Sir, you will be ſenſibly affected at knowing, that he lies now almoſt at the point of death. Fortitude is not the lot of mankind. Heaven, for its own wiſe purpoſes, has been partial in the diſtribution of that, as of its other favours. Feeling reflections upon paſt and preſent circumſtances have, I apprehend, induced a depreſſion of ſpirits from whence his diſorder has originated. In conſequence of his illneſs he has been removed from the Hulk he belonged to, to that which is called the Hoſpital; and if we may be allowed to judge from appearances, nothing but change of air, or the immediate interpoſition of Providence, can produce a reſtoration of health. I have frequently, in the hours of converſation, heard him mention that, under God, you had been the means of preſerving him, from an ignominious death; and that, ſtranger as he was in this kingdom, without a relation or native friend to aſſiſt him, your goodneſs was ſtill the only ſource of his hope, as he muſt inevitably ſink under the preſſure of his heavy ſentence, if he did not again find in you a mediator and a deliverer. As you have been pleaſed, Reverend Sir, to promiſe that you would take an opportunity of interceeding for him with Earl Mansfield, in order to obtain a mitigation of his ſentence: and as he himſelf is incapable of writing to inform you of his preſent deplorable ſtate, I have voluntarily preſumed to do it, that your humane endeavours may be accelerated—that they may not be exerted too late. Perhaps Reverend Sir, it may not be convenient for you to be an eye witneſs to the ſtate he is in; but I truſt you will have the goodneſs to act in ſuch a manner, as to let him perceive that you who are his principal dependence, under God, have not entirely forgot him. If any thing in this world can afford the unhappy young man any conſolation, and enable him to ſtruggle with the malady which conſumes

conſumes him, that I am convinced will.

*I am, with the greateſt reſpect,*
*Reverend Sir,*
*Your moſt humble,*
*And moſt obedient Servant,*

*(Signed)* *GEORGE BARRINGTON.*

FEBRUARY 16, 1781.

*SIR,*

STRANGE, as it may appear to you, yet it is very true that I had not the honour of receiving your letter, though dated the 13th ult. till to day, the delay I have experienced in this inſtance, however diſagreeable, being nothing uncommon, but one of the numerous train of unhappy circumſtances to which paſt miſconduct has ſubjected me, in common with many other unfortunates, by bringing us to this place of diſtreſs and ſorrow.

As ſome priſoners were lately brought down here from——. I ſuppoſe, Reverend Sir, you are apprized by this time that——is no longer in a capacity to derive any benefit from your humane endeavours. God having been pleaſed to call him away from his miſery the 15th ult, but as I have every reaſon to hope that he was not remiſs in preparing for the awful change he had reaſon to expect, I know not whether moſt to rejoice or mourn, to envy or pity him on the occaſion. With regard, Reverend Sir, to myſelf, I truſt that the proper feelings are awakened in my breaſt, indeed, I reflect, with much ſhame, that they have lain dormant ſo long, but I hope it will appear that thay are not entirely obliterated. I view with the deepeſt compunction the errors of my paſt life; errors which have drawn upon me the diſpleaſure of God, and the diſpleaſure of good men: blaſted me in fame and fortune, and plunged me into inexpreſſible miſery, without leaving me a ſingle advantage in return. Painful as theſe reflections are, I endeavour to keep deſpondency at a diſtance? reſolved patiently to abide the determination of that Supreme Being, who has mercifully preſerved my life even amidſt the greateſt dangers, and who, if it is his pleaſure that I ſhould return again to the valuable part of ſociety, will, I truſt, endue me with fortitude ſufficient to act in every ſituation as a worthy member of it. I cannot ſufficiently thank you for your excellent advice and charitable wiſhes: they will not, I hope, be thrown away upon me, but that my future conduct will ſtrongly demonſtrate my gratitude to God by real reformation. Permit me, in return, to preſent my humble but fervent wiſhes, that your proſperity may be equal to your merit, few I believe, would then be happier.

I am, with profound Reſpect,
Reverend Sir,
Your unfortunate but moſt humble,
And obedient Servant,

(Signed) *GEORGE BARRINGTON.*

He

He was confined the remainder of his time in Newgate.

On Wedneſday February 28, 1784, George Barrington was inſted for ſtealing one ſilk purſe, ten guineas, and a half guinea, the roperty of Sir Godfrey Webſter, Bart. privily from his perſon.

r Godfrey ſaid, that on Saturday January 31, about half after ten clock, ſoon after the opera was over, I was attempting to get into e tea room, but there was ſuch a prodigious number of poople, nd the room was ſo crouded, I could not get in without great inonvenience; I leaned againſt the door way; I had a new gold atch chain, which had caught a lady's clothes, and I took it in y hand to put it in my fob, in doing which, I felt a ſilk purſe in y pocket, which contained a fifty guinea note of Hammerſley's, nd ten guineas and a half; a part of my hand reſted ſlightly on is purſe, and barely touched it; I felt in half a minute a perſon an againſt my right ſhoulder, which was next the paſſage; that as the priſoner; I looked him ſteadily in the face, and while I as ſo doing I felt a gentle pulſation juſt above my right cuff; I ought it was ſingular that any body could be ſo cold to tremble at e opera; in a very few ſeconds after, I perceived my purſe was one; my Lord Weſtmoreland was ſtanding by me, and I told him was robbed; that perſon that leaned againſt me had walked away.

*Court.* Did you not perceive your purſe go out of your pocket?

—No, I did not.

What was there in your purſe? There was a fifty guinea note of ammerſley's, payable at ſight, and ten guineas and a half in gold; om feeling the purſe in my pocket a very few ſeconds before at perſon leaned againſt me, and miſſing it a very few ſeconds ter he walked away from me, and before he got out of my ſight, was thorougly convinced he was the perſon that took it; had I nown his name and his former character I ſhould without the aſt heſitation have ſeized him on the ſpot, but his dreſs and his ppearance put him externally ſo much above committing a crime that ſort, and not wiſhing to make a riot and buſtle in a public lace, I reſolved not to diſturb the ſociety at that inſtant, but to llow him; I followed him for ſome time, I had him apprehended, ut nothing was found on him.

## PRISONER's DEFENCE.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip, and you gentlemen of the Jury; I ad an opportunity to ſee the opera, on this Saturday night, through e means of a performer belonging to the houſe, who received om me at the ſame time ſurgical aſſiſtance; when the opera was ver, I had proceeded as far in my way home as the outward door, nd I found the foot-way to the right and left ſo taken up with hairs, chairmen, and link boys, that it appeared to me the beſt way go ſtraight acroſs if I could; I had another reaſon for this hoice; I had appointed to meet an acquaintance at the Orange offee-houſe; it was a fine moon-light night, a very ſevere froſt, nd the ground in the middle of the ſtreet as dry, or drier, than the ot pavement; I had got about half way acroſs the ſtreet, when

one of the many carriages which aſſembled there on ſuch occaſions, driving very hard, obliged me to uſe the endeavovrs to avoid the danger of being run over. I proceeded ſome little way down the Haymarket, within about one hundred yards of the Orange Coffee-houſe, when Sir Godfrey laid hold of me, I had never ſeen him before, and he charged me with having his purſe; I did not make any reſiſtance, or endeavour to avoid giving every ſatisfaction in my power, I adviſed him to go into the Coffee-houſe, and I hope I ſhall not offend in informing the Court, that he ſwore in a moſt violent manner that he would not be convinced; if I do not miſtake, he damned his heart and blood, and expreſſions of that kind that he would not be convinced; I was brought to the watch-houſe immediately, and when I was there previous to my being ſearched, I told him he was miſtaken; he told me he ſuſpected me, and if he was miſtaken he would give me every ſatisfaction, he would fight me or any thing elſe; I was ſearched as you have heard, and neither his property nor the property of any other perſon was found in my poſſeſſion; you obſerve gentlemen, the proſecutor has not ſaid, that I ran till I reached the outward door; he not ſaid, that after he miſſed his purſe, he followed me firſt into the inner lobby, then into the outward lobby, from thence down the large pair of ſtone ſtairs, and then through a large ſtone hall; he followed ſo cloſe that he heard or fancied he heard me ſay ſomething about a coach or ſervant, expreſſions which might have been made uſe of by ſome gentleman that was there, and miſtakenly attributed to me: You will perceive, Gentlemen, that in all this time of his following me, he did not accuſe or moleſt, though it is evident, and I hope it will appear to you evident, that he might have done it ten times over; I do not know whether you have been able to perceive the temper and diſpoſition of the proſecutor; but this is certain, that he is fiery hot, and of that I could give many convincing proofs; you will be the beſt judge, whether if his ſuſpicions were well grounded, he would not have charged me on the ſpot, & taken me into cuſtody; as to my running, I hope it may be accounted for, the coldneſs of the night, or a deſire of being home betimes, may induce a perſon to make more than ordinary ſpeed: This is my caſe, and I moſt humbly hope that the court will hear me with patience; it is not my intereſt or my inclination to offend any perſon in this honourable Court, and if I ſhould happen to let drop any expreſſion which may not be ſtrictly proper, I truſt it will not be conſtrued into an offence, but that it will be imputed to ariſe from that anxiety and deſire of vindication, which every man in my unhappy ſituation muſt naturally feel. Gentlemen of the Jury, if you were to be aſked whether any rumour or report to my diſadvantage had reached your ears, unconnected with the preſent, you would perhaps ſay yes: If you were aſked again, whether you would ſuffer yourſelves to be influenced in the ſmalleſt degree by ſuch a rumour or report, I am ſure you would with one voice cry God forbid! I truſt therefore, Gentlemen, that no inſinuations or rumour, or ſuggeſtions, from what channel ſoever you may have received them

will

will induce you to deprive me of life, or to condemn me without clear and ſubſtantial proof: but as prejudice from ſuch reports, will ſometimes penetrate into the minds of the beſt and wiſeſt, and make an impreſſion before they themſelves are aware of it, you will do well, Gentlemen, and I moſt humbly & moſt heartily & earneſtly beg of you, before you determine your verdict on this occaſion, to aſk yourſelves one queſtion: would you on the evidence you have now heard, condemn any other perſon of whom you have never heard any thing before the preſent time? Gentlemen, my life is in your hands, and I do not addreſs myſelf to your feelings, but to your candour and impartiality.

NOT GUILTY.

On Wedneſday April 7, 1785, George Barrington was indicted for ſtealing on the 26th of February laſt, one watch with the caſe made of gold, value 5l. one watch chain, value 10s. two ſtone ſeals ſet in gold, value 20s. the property of John Bagſhaw, Eſq;—who depoſed—"On the 26th of February laſt I went to Drury-lane Theatre, in company with another young gentleman; we were under the neceſſity of ſtopping a few minutes till ſeveral perſons that were before had gained admittance; at this time there might be perhaps ſix, ſeven, or eight perſons who each entered the pit paſſage, pretty near the ſame time that we did, or immediately after: I ſpeak of them that were behind us while we were waiting for thoſe that were before us to gain admittance, I fancied I felt ſomebody at my breeches pocket, I immediately put my hand to my breeches pocket, and I found my watch was taken; on turning my head, the priſoner at the bar, whom the moment before I loſt my watch, I had particularly taken notice of, as ſtanding on the right ſide of me, rather a little behind me, not immediately in a line, was then ſtanding with his back to me, endeavouring to make his way out through the perſons that were collected together; I immediately laid hold of him; as ſoon as we had cleared the perſons who were behind us, excepting one perſon who ſtood by himſelf, and at about the diſtance of two or three yards from any body elſe: I immediately laid hold of him, and ſaid, Sir, you have got my watch; his anſwer was, have I, Sir, got your watch? I replied that he had; he immediately endeavoured to get away from me, at the ſame time holding out his hand as with an intention of offering ſomething to that perſon who was at a very ſmall diſtance from him, cloſe by him almoſt at the time, but at the diſtance of two or three yards from any of the perſons who were going into the pit; at this moment I heard ſomething fall to the ground, and the breaking of glaſs; I immediately put my right hand to the ground, picked up my watch, and put it into my breeches pocket."

PRISONER's DEFENCE.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip and you Gentlemen of the Jury.

With humble ſubmiſſion I entreat your candid attention, and I truſt, the ears and hearts of all in this Honourable Court will be as open and ready to receive impreſſions in my favour, as they may be

to admit thoſe of a contrary nature. The evening in which this matter is ſtated to have happened I went to ſee the play, it was Macbeth, the houſe was filled early, and hearing it mentioned that there was no more room at that ſide, I was going to another part of the houſe, when I was accoſted by the proſecutor, who ſaid, Sir, you have got my watch. I told him I had not, and that he ſhould be ſatisfied of it in any manner he choſe. There were ſeveral perſons preſent at the time. An altercation took place, during which a by-ſtander cried out, there is a watch on the ground. This was at ſome yards diſtance from him. The proſecutor ran, but whether he ſtooped himſelf or it was given him by a by-ſtander I cannot ſay; but he took it, and declared it to be his. It has been ſtated, that when he accuſed me, I extended my hand, as if I was offering ſomething to ſome perſon; whether I did or did not I cannot take upon me to ſay; but I truſt that it will not be conſidered as an unnatural poſition for any perſon ſo accuſed, to extend his arm or hand. Perhaps it will be more reaſonable to imagine, that an endeavour would be made to conceal them, if the accuſation had been juſt, and I truſt, Gentlemen of the Jury, that it will be worthy your moſt ſerious conſideration, that while this circumſtance is mentioned in order to criminate, the proſecutor has acknowledged, at the ſame time, that he ſaw nothing in my hand, ſaw me drop nothing, or give any thing to any perſon whatever. It has been ſtated, that during the altercation he received ſome violent treatment, and though he has acknowledged it did not proceed from me, yet an endeavour has been made to turn it to my diſadvantage. I moſt humbly beg leave to obſerve, that in conſequence of the alarm a croud came, and hearing ſuch a charge made, and ſeeing two people diſputing, both decently dreſſed, and much alike in height, and not immediately knowing which was the the accuſed perſon, ſome, more violent than the reſt, might have laid hold of him as the others did of me, until they was ſatisfied which was the accuſer. This I humbly conceive, and this alone, gave riſe to the violence complained of; and though it has been laboured to impreſs the Court with an idea that it proceeded from accomplices, yet I humbly hope, that were there are no ſolid proofs to eſtabliſh ſuch an idea, it will not be received; and therefore that in this, as well as in every other circumſtance of ſurmiſe or conjecture it will be deemed as juſt and charitable to ſuppoſe for, as to ſuppoſe againſt the priſoner; and I truſt too, that the juſtice and humanity of this Honourable Court will not allow that a man, though he may be unfortunate enough to have a blemiſhed character, ſhall be made reſponſible for offences which others have committed, or that a ſurmiſe or ſuppoſition will be ſuffered to ſupply the place of clear convincing proofs. Whether thoſe that have appeared on this occaſion are of that kind or not, would be preſumption in me to ſay: I humbly hope they are not. But I muſt beg leave, Gentlemen of the Jury, with all humility, to call your attention for a moment to another ſubject, which, though it has not, and ought not to have any connection with the evidence, may, without much care, have

weight

weight in deciding my fate. It has been my misfortune to have ſuffered much from ill-natured report, and from wanton invention, at a time too, when I can truly ſay, that I had been uſing my beſt endeavours to merit commendation inſtead of reproach; and I thought to have had it in my power to have given convincing proofs of this to the Court, from a gentleman in whoſe employment I have been for ſome time, but who is now abſent on his affairs in Ireland. Deſirous of having his teſtimony which I knew muſt be favourable to me, I thought to have requeſted of the court to defer my trial till the following ſeſſions; but being told that the abſence of witneſſes which went to character, was not in general deemed ſufficiently material to defer a trial, I have omitted troubling them with the application. And although, under theſe circumſtances of impriſonment and an impending trial, yet they have not ſecured me from the effects of inconſiderate wantonneſs. Circumſtances have been related of me which never happened, and others have been cruelly exaggerated. I do not ſay this in order to excite your compaſſion, but to allay inflammation. Gentlemen, prejudice ſees through a glaſs, which makes things appear quite different from what they really are, you beſt know, Gentlemen, whether, in conſequence of any thing of that kind, your minds may have contracted a bias unfavourable to me, if, upon reflection, you think that they have, I am ſure you will carefully examine your breaſts: and if upon a cool and impartial conſideration of the evidence alone, you think or doubt, that it is not of that perfect and ſubſtantial nature, which ſhould induce you to find a verdict againſt any other perſon, I am ſure you will not againſt me, ſince you muſt be fully ſenſible, that in ſuch a caſe it would be a conviction from prejudice, and not from evidence. But Gentlemen, I have an implicit confidence in your goodneſs; and I truſt you will not only lay aſide all paſſion and prejudice yourſelves, but that you will be pleaſed to make a candid allowance for the effects of it in others; and that you will proceed with that cautious and tender regard, which good men feel when the fate of a fellow-creature is depending, and which will inſure ſatisfaction to your minds, when words cannot be recalled, and when the power of prejudice is no more.

NOT GUILTY.

We hear no more of our hero's fame, till the 19th of January, 1787; on the evening of which day he was unfortunately detected in picking the pocket of Mr. Le Meſurier of a watch at Drury-Lane theatre. Not being ſkilful or happy enough to conjure the booty unperceived into his poſſeſſion, he was apprehended on the ſpot, and immediately taken to the Brown-Bear, in Bow-ſtreet; where for his effectual ſecurity, an officer of juſtice, named Blandy, was directed to keep watch during the night. But ſome how or other—owing probable to the powerful influence of gold—Barrington was not to be found the next morning. As nobody would give the priſoner credit for ſo great a piece of generalſhip as this eſcape indicated, ſuſpicion fell upon Blandy; and he was in conſequence tried on the charge of having favoured the eſcape, and found guilty.

After this very precipitate elopement, Mr. Barrington made the tour of Edingburgh, but, before he had an opportunity of trying any of his profeſſional experiments, he was recognized by Sir Henry D—s, who very properly making his arrival known, as that of a diſtinguiſhed perſon, for the benefit of his health, he found it neceſſary to leave this city, and that too with as little ceremony as he entered it.

From thence he repaired to Glaſgow; where he engaged himſelf as a comedian; and, it is ſaid, ſhone to great advantage in the Beggar's Opera. But his ſucceſs in this line did not cure his propenſity for another of leſs repute, being detected in robbing the wardrobe of all its moſt valuable contents. This untimely diſcovery obliged him to ſheer off; but not till he had gained the affection of Miſs H——, the Juliet of the company, who kindly conſented to accompany him, and to ſhare his future fortune.

Leith Races being about to commence, our hero ventured once more into Edinburgh; and was preſent at the races, where he unmoleſtedly picked the pocket of Mr. Campbell of a gold watch and twenty guineas. This affair however occaſioning ſome noiſe, he thought proper to take his final leave of a place, where buſineſs was ſo extremely precarious. He did not imagine it adviſeable to take his fair companion with him in this expedition: and it is ſuſpected that virtue was not the only valuable of which this lady was robbed—ſhe being heard to repeat, frequently, theſe words with much emotion, the celebrated paſſage in *Othello*. "He that ſteals my purſe, ſteals traſh, &c.

Barrington, on his return, ſtopped at Carliſle, where he luckily met with Jack Brown, one of his old acquaintances, who kept an E. O. table. A firm of partnerſhip was inſtantly formed, which, during the races at that city, proved highly productive. Encouraged by this firſt trial, they repaired to Derby races: and erected their table for the accommodation of gentlemen ſportſmen; one of whom, Mr. H—d—n, of Derby, having won upwards of ſeventy pounds—much againſt the inclination of our hero and his coadjutor—Barrington had recourſe to the more vulgar part of his profeſſion; and as this gentleman was proceeding down ſtairs with his booty, he followed him, and ingeniouſly contrived to transfer the property to himſelf. Mr. H—d—n almoſt inſtantly miſſed his caſh; and ſeizing the coat of the firſt perſon within his graſp, he cried out for aſſiſtance; but, ere that aſſiſtance arrived, the gentleman found himſelf in poſſeſſion of nothing but a coat; which, however, on examination, proved to be that worn by Barrington, who wiſely enough determined to looſe it to ſave himſelf. Confuſion and uproar immediately commenced; and while every one's attention was directed to the recovery of Mr. H's ſeventy pounds, Brown determined to acquit himſelf in a manner which would ſecure the hearty approbation of his ſagacious partner: he fixed his eyes therefore on the money which remained on the table, and contriving accidentally to extinguiſh all the lights, took the "golden glorious opportunity" of ſweeping the whole into his pockets.

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In revenge for this ſecond piece of villainy, the company broke the E. O. table with every mark of indignation and contempt: not once conceiving that themſelves, who were in the illegal act of robbing each other, had in ſome ſort merited the treatment with which they had been complimented.

Barrington, by no means diſheartened at the cataſtrophe of his gaming table, proceeded to York: where, at the Muſic Meeting of that city, he contrived to procure enough for travelling expences; ſuch as a few watches, and about eighty guineas! From thence, he repaired to Newcaſtle; where being at the Theatre one evening, a watch was miſſed by a gentleman in the boxes; Barrington, though having every appearance of the man of quality, was ſuſpected and ſoon ſecured. But, in the courſe of his rout to a place of confinement, he dropped his booty in the ſtreet, where it was found the next morning.—The evidence, therefore, before the juſtice amounted to nothing deciſive, he was on the point or being liberated, when a Mr. Burton, of Oxford-ſtreet, London, [who was on a viſit at the magiſtrate's] entered the room, and, recognizing the perſon of Barrington, informed his friend of the robbery of Mr. Le Meſurier, and the ſubſequent outlawry. The impending conſequences were now but too evident; our hero was ſecured, and intelligence of the circumſtance ſent to Bow-ſtreet; from whence an officer was diſpatched, and, by virtue of an habeas corpus, he was once more ſafely lodged at his old apartments in Newgate.

Monday, September 16, 1788, at the call-over, *George Barrington*, being brought up with the other Priſoners, thus addreſſed the Court:

*May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,*

As I am before the court, and if I do not treſpaſs on your Lordſhip's time, I humbly requeſt that I may be allowed to ſtate a few circumſtances.

I was removed to a very diſtant part of the kingdom in July laſt, by writ of habeas corpus; before the habeas was obtained, I knew nothing of a bill of indictment having been found againſt me: and had no knowledge of an outlawry thereon, till I arrived in London. If I had, I would reſpectfully and immediately have ſubmitted to a trial. For, my Lord, notwithſtanding the confident aſſertions which have been made in ſome erroneous, I will not ſay malignant prints, and elſewhere, I am credibly aſſured, that the charge againſt me, as laid before the magiſtrate in the information, is only on ſuſpicion; and it is very unreaſonable to ſuppoſe, that a perſon under ſuch circumſtances, would ſubject himſelf to a proceſs ſo ſummary and rigorous in its nature as outlawry indiſputably is knowing that ſuch a proceeding was going forwards; Or will the liberal ſpirit of the laws juſtify putting a man to death untried and unheard, becauſe he appears to have been negligent?

With reſpect to the indictment, I can only ſay, my Lord, that I am ready at any moment to take my trial: and if after a fair and impartial

impartial hearing, conviction follows, I ſhall bow to the ſentence of the law with ſubmiſſive reverence.

But I am given to underſtand; that I am to have no trial, if it can be hindered; a ſanguinary proceſs, which has lain dormant for ages, is to ſupply the place of trial by jury; and fiction propogated in newſpapers, to fill up vacant corners from dearth of news and advertiſements, is to ſupply the place of facts and proofs of guilt.

I am alſo, my Lord, given to underſtand, that it has been ſaid by the ſupporters of this meaſure, that the preſent caſe is meant as a precedent to the riſing generation; yet however plauſible this may ſound, it may perhaps appear, to think of arriving at popularity by curtailing the beſt privileges of the ſubject, to be a miſtaken idea; and the riſing generation will have but little cauſe to thank that reformer, who eſtabliſhes a precedent to ſet aſide the trial by jury, when the charge is theft on ſuſpicion, and certainly free from violence and cruelty.

Candour ſhould never be loſt ſight of in any proſecution; even in the moſt rigorous purſuit of juſtice. But if the gentleman on the part of the proſecution, will perſiſt to deny me a trial, either from conſcious inability to prove guilt, or from miſguided fury againſt an unfortunate man, who has been ſpared from the imputation of cruelty and violence, even by the voice of calumny itſelf, loud as it has been raiſed againſt him; yet I truſt your Lordſhip, from the dictates of benevolence, will not deny me ſuch a means of defence, as a caſe ſo hard and ſo extraordinary may require.

The perſons concerned in the proſecution have been applied to, for leave for my counſellor and ſolicitor to inſpect the proceedings againſt me, and even this has been refuſed; ſurely they wiſh not to keep their priſoner entirely in the dark, or to deprive him of all poſſibility of defence,

The practice of a ſurgeon is at all times very limited, without an extenſive acquaintance, and many friends: in a priſon it can afford but little emolument, by no means ſufficient to defray the expences, which I am informed, in ſuch a caſe are liable to be very great on the part of the accuſed. I am therefore under the neceſſity of requeſting, which I do with the utmoſt humility, that your Lordſhip in your goodneſs will be pleaſed to recommend, that my counſellor and ſolicitor have leave to inſpect the proceedings againſt me.

To which Mr. RECORDER gave the following Anſwer:

Mr. BARRINGTON,

It is only neceſſary for me to obſerve to you, in the ſituation in which you at preſent ſtand, that you appear to be committed, moved by habeas corpus to the goal of Newgate, under a judgment of outlawry, allowed to be duly pronounced againſt you——If that judgment had been returned on record to this court, the arguments which you have advanced would have had great weight. As you have been attained by the judgment of the law, the only thing this court could do with that attainder, while it remains in force and unreverſed, would be not to pronounce judgment, but to award execution of the ſentence of the law. The court has been informed,

that

that it is the intention of the profecutor to remove the proceedings into his Majeſty's court of King's Bench.

It occurs to me, that this intention is proper, both from the conſequences of the precedent to the public, and it is favourable to you, as giving you an opportunity to bring a writ of error in that court, which has the ſupreme juriſdiction in the kingdom, in order to reverſe that outlawry, if any error ſhould be found in the proceedings.

It would by no means become me to ſtate what will be proper for that Court to do. When they have the record before them, I am perfectly perſuaded juſtice will be adminiſtrated according to the law, and with all the lenity the law will permit.

It only remains, therefore, to take notice of another circumſtance, the application you have made to inſpect the proceedings, which not being before the court, the court can make no order on that ſubject, which could be compulſory; and a recommendation pronounced by perſons in a judicial ſituation, in caſes where they have no authority to make an order, is improper.

Your application, unleſs you can obtain a copy of the proceedings by the conſent of the profecutor, muſt be made to the court of the King's bench after the record is returned before them. If the court think it proper, they will order it, and will take care that you ſhall not be prejudiced in point of time, but that you ſhall have a proper opportunity of urging by your counſel and yourſelf whatever may be deemed material.

The legal conſequences of the outlawry, and the effect of the attainder, if not reverſed, is the judgment of death, in point of law already extended againſt you. And this is not obſolete law; but is the undoubted ſubſiſting law of the country. Courts of juſtice, however, conſidering, that in ſome caſes it may be a harſh operation of the law, have always liſtened to every attempt to aſſign errors in the outlawry, by which the attainder may be reverſed, and the party labouring under it, reſtored to the benefit of a trial by his country.

I have no doubt, but when this matter comes before the court of King's bench, they will ſhew you all the indulgence which the law will permit.

The following letter was ſent by Mr. Barrington to the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

*SIR,*

I AM ſorry that the ſtatement which appeared in your paper of the trial of Blandy the conſtable, had ſuch a manifeſt tendency to inflame and miſlead the public. In every trial that is pending, whatever its nature may be, the public prints ſhould be very cautious to interfere; but when the life of a fellow creature is attempted to be wreſted from him by ſuch a novel mode, they ſhould be doubly ſo; and if cruelty, malice, or wantonneſs, obtruded any thing prejudicial on the ſubject, the editor ſhould act like the Recording Angel and blot it out with a tear. The approbation of his own mind will amply recompenſe him.

But if the voice of humanity is not to be ſolicited on this occaſion, at leaſt let the privileges of the ſubject be regarded; and not be inſtrumental in enforcing a proceſs, ſo arbitrary in its nature, and

ſanguinary

ſanguinary in its effects.

Whatever might have been the proſecutor's motive in bringing on that trial at ſuch a juncture, only two days before I was to appear at their Lordſhip's bar; whether it was from the pure love of juſtice, or in order to give, by a kind of ex parte evidence, a ſort of ſanction to ſuch a proceſs as outlawry, muſt be left to his own heart.

And whether the conduct of the unfortunate man, in ſuffering, as it is ſaid his priſoner to eſcape, proceeded from wilful neglect, or from inadvertence, this at leaſt is certain, he has had a trial. The caſe is very different with me: I have had no trial, though I have ſtrained every nerve to obtain it; and until it is obtained, the public ſhould ſuſpend its opinion. It may fairly do more, ſir, in ſuppoſing me innocent; for what reaſonable ground can a proſecutor have to decline bringing a cauſe before a jury? Mr. Le Meſurier's belief, that I am the offender, and his inability to prove it, may perhaps be urged as the cauſe. But ſhall a man, however ſtrongly he is ſuſpected, be put to death, becauſe guilt cannot be proved? A Saracen would not anſwer in the affirmative.

Your impartiality may perhaps lead you, ſir, to give this a place, even if it had more merits than its ſincerity, ſince I can with great truth aſſure you, that the newſpapers can never benefit me ſo much as they have injured me by fiction and miſrepreſentation.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.

*GEORGE BARRINGTON.*

Saturday, Nov. 14th, 1789, Geo. Barrington, was brought from Newgate, and placed at the bar of the court of King's Bench.

After the indictment and record of the proceedings were read by the proper officer, the priſoner was commanded to hold up his hand; and upon being aſked what he had to ſay why judgment of death ſhould not be pronounced againſt him, he anſwered as follows:

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip,

I moſt humbly pray for the allowance of a writ of error: the writ of error was then read, which aſſigned many diſtinct grounds of error, in the form of the proceſs on the outlawry.

The priſoner afterwards named his counſel for his writ of error; who were Meſſrs. Wood and Fielding. Lord Kenyon then ordered him to be remanded back to Newgate; upon which the unfortunate priſoner humbly ſolicited the indulgence of the court, to hear him a few words. He prefaced his addreſs by obſerving, that nothing could have induced him on this occaſion to trouble the court, of whoſe indulgence and clemency he was deeply ſenſible, but the very peculiar ſituation in which he was ſo unfortunate as to ſtand.—He then made many ſenſible obſervations upon the mode of proceeding in outlawry, and the peculiar hardſhips of thoſe who are made the object of it. It was his misfortune, that although a conſiderable

conſiderable time had elapſed ſince the commencement of this proceſs againſt him, he had never received the leaſt notice or intimation of it, either through the medium of the public prints, or by any other communication till after he was conveyed to London, upon the charge in queſtion.

This outlawry the want of the knowledge of which, might deprive him of his life, without a trial by Jury, or an opportunity to defend himſelf againſt the charge upon which it had iſſued, was kept a profound ſecret from him, until Sir Sampſon Wright apprized him of it. It might, he ſaid, be eaſily conceived, that a man might be at a diſtant part of this, or reſident in a foreign country, at the time a proceſs of this ſort originated, and be totally ignorant of its hanging over his head: for the notification of it, made by the proclamations in the progreſſive ſtages of the proſecution, were pronounced pro forma by an officer in ſo low a tone of voice, that it ſeldom met the ear of any perſon in the court in which it was made.——A man, therefore, however intentionally innocent, might, under an outlawry, be dragged to a place of confinement, loaded with galling irons, and after having for many months ſuffered all the complicated wretchedneſs of a goal, have only one miſerable means left of a period being put to his woes, namely, by the proſecutor calling upon the court to enforce the outlawry, and thereby mercifully terminate the miſery of the unhappy priſoner, by a judgment of death carried into execution. After many other pertinent obſervations, he concluded his ſpeech, by returning his unfeigned thanks to the court, for their indulgence in allowing him his writ of error, and permitting him counſel to whom he had left his defence; and in whoſe knowledge, wiſdom, and integrity, he repoſed the moſt unlimited confidence. He ſaid, he felt the moſt heart-felt gratitude for the humanity of that great and amiable character, the Attorney-General, of whoſe kindneſs during this proſecution, he ſhould never be unmindful of.

Barrington delivered this addreſs in a very deliberate and pathetic manner; it was couched in very elegant language, and appeared to make a ſtrong Impreſſion upon every perſon in court. He was remanded to Newgate, till the writ of error was argued.

In a ſhort time after this, the Attorney General acquainted Barrington that the outlawry was taken off: and he muſt take his trial at the Old Bailey, after the uſual method.

GEORGE BARRINGTON was indicted for feloniouſly ſtealing, on the 29th of January, 1787, twenty-three guineas, and a half guinea, the property of Havilard Le Meſurier, Eſq; privately from his perſon.

*Havilard Le Meſurier ſworn.*

Was you at the play-houſe in Drury-Lane, on the 19th of January, 1787?—I was: I ſaw the priſoner there; it was at the end of the play; I left my party to meet my ſervants whom I had appointed at a part of the houſe oppoſite myſelf; as I came into the Lobby, I obſerved I was exceſſively crouded; a circumſtance had then ſtruck

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me which had tranſpired on getting into the carriage to come there, and that was I happened to take out my purſe, and a lady in the carriage obſerved there was a great deal of money in it: her maid was at the door; ſhe preſſed me very much to give my purſe to the maid, telling me I was wrong to carry ſo much money as well as a valuable watch, which I had about my perſon to the play, on ſuch a night; I made light of it, ſaying, I never had been robbed; I ſtate theſe circumſtances, becauſe they led me to be extremely on my guard; when I got into the lobby, not only for fear of loſing my purſe and watch, but for fear of ridicule. When I got into the lobby, I put my watch chain very deep in my fob, and put my left hand down, in this manner, to guard my pocket; I went along, preſſing through the croud to get to my ſervants, I felt my purſe move, and on feeling my purſe move, I immediately got my hand up in this manner, with my right hand, and with my left I turned round to ſeize the perſon whoſe hand I had, and I ſeized the priſoner's hand cloſe to my pocket, and with the other hand I turned round and ſeized his perſon: I did not ſay any thing to the priſoner, my aim and wiſh was to recover my purſe, which I thought was in his hand; I had not time to ſeize upon him, for a gentleman, a clergyman, whom I have ſince found to be Mr. Adean, ſtepped up and ſaid, Sir, you are right, I ſaw him do it.

Was there any other perſon at the time it was done ſo near you, that you thought it could be done by any other perſon but him? There were people all round: on Mr. Adean's ſtepping up to me, on my having his hand up ſtill, a gentleman from the other ſide called out, Sir, here is your purſe; and delivered me my purſe.

My pocket was cut through, no hand was in my pocket; Mr. Adean and myſelf kept poſſeſſion of the priſoner's perſon, after having recovered the purſe, I had the care of it, and it being known there was money in it, I got hold of his perſon with my left hand; there was a great deal of trouble; we were ſhoved about: But I ought to ſtate, that the priſoner on my ſeizing him, and on Mr. Adean's aſſiſting me, ſaid, what do you mean? I am a gentleman; and I felt as if I thought he meant to follow me, but on Mr. Adean's coming to me, he ſaid, Conſider, ſir, what you are doing, I am a gentleman: only conſider the conſequence of this for God's ſake conſider. The priſoner was extremely pale and confuſed; I kept anſwering him, who are you? to which he gave me no anſwer, only ſaying he was a gentleman; we called out for a conſtable, & after ſome time a conſtable came: we aſked the conſtable, who was the unfortunate Blandy, if he knew him: he looked at him very hard, and ſaid no, I do not know the priſoner; after a great deal of difficulty he was had to the Brown-Bear, where I delivered him into the cuſtody of Blandy; I attended the next day at the office in Bow-ſtreet. Was the priſoner there? He was not there.

*May it pleaſe your Lordſhip, and you Gentlemen of the Jury.*

The benignity and candour which mark the judicial proceedings of this country, of which I have recently met a diſtinguiſhed proof,

proof, induce me to hope, with the utmoſt humility, that the indulgent attention of the Court will not be with-held on the preſent occaſion, but that it will be extended, not through the merit of any thing I may urge; but from the generous and impartial impulſe of your own minds, to every one who is ſo unhappy as to ſtand here, the ſubject of accuſation; and if ever there was a caſe which called for the calm, I will not ſay the compaſſionate, conſideration of your Lordſhip, and the Gentlemen of the Jury, it is perhaps the preſent, as well from the heavy affliction I have ſuſtained for many months before I could obtain trial: as from the newſpapers calumny that has been levelled againſt me, even under the preſſure of a long impriſonment, and to the very hour of my trial.

It is but too true that I had the misfortune to be at the play about the time mentioned in the indictment; I had ſometimes an opportunity to obtain an order for the play, through the medium of a reſpectable though no very intimate friend, and it is unneceſſary for me to ſay, that the part of the houſe is not thought material in general when an order is given; I was going through the box paſſage on my way home, when ſome one ſaid, it is certainly Barrington, and almoſt the ſame inſtant I was addreſſed by a perſon who requeſted me to tell my name; I aſked his reaſon for the enquiry: he turned from me and ſaid, Mr. Le Meſurier, is this the perſon; the proſecutor ſaid he had loſt his purſe, and that I was near him, but no more; the paſſage was extremely crouded, and this converſation excited the general attention; ſome of the by-ſtanders requeſted I would give my name; I told them I ſhould decline giving my name there; the matter being of an unpleaſant nature, but if that there was any charge againſt me, I had no objection to going before a magiſtrate, ſome gentlemen cloſe to the proſecutor obſerved, that ſuch a ſtep would be quite unneceſſary, if I would call on any gentleman preſent; while others ſaid that my name was BARRINGTON: the proſecutor in the mean time was no way active on the occaſion, or like a man that was at all convinced in his own mind, and an altercation merely about my name continued, I may venture to ſay, half an hour, when the approach of a Conſtable was announced, the croud was ſo great it was with difficulty they could come near; and then being aſked concerning me, he ſaid he could not recollect me, or words to that effect; ſome gentlemen continued to ſuggeſt the propriety of my calling on ſome perſon that knew me, which they ſaid would entirely do away all imputation; while others ſaid, Mr. Le Meſurier, you ſhould go before Sir Sampſon Wright; Mr. Le Meſurier then abſolutely replied, what is the uſe of my going there; I am not ſure; I can ſay nothing to affect him; this, Gentlemen of the Jury, was really the language of Mr. Le Meſurier then, however it may have been forgot; however it may have been changed ſince for the preſent purpoſe; ſome little altercation further continued about my name, when one ſaid, here is Townſend of Bow-ſtreet he perhaps knows ſomething of the priſoner, let us hear what he ſays, when he mentioned my name, ſome Gentlemen ſaid, I told you how it was; when ſeveral other Gentlemen

tlemen obſerved that my name was then quite immaterial from the declaration that Mr. Le Meſurier had made; that if Mr. Le Meſurier had been convinced of the fact in his own mind, I ought to have been taken before a Magiſtrate, whoever I was, or whatever my name was? but that he had declared, that he was by no means certain, it was neither fair nor reaſonable that a man ſhould be criminated becauſe his name was BARRINGTON. This, Gentlemen of the Jury, was the opinion of many Gentlemen; ſome of whom I am ſatisfied Mr. Le Meſurier well knows to be ſuch, and the majority of the company concurred in that opinion; the altercation ſtill continued about my name; and it may appear ſtrange, perhaps incredible, that I, who about half an hour before was accuſed of a breach of the peace, and as an offender, ſhould be then actually employed as a moderator in endeavouring to appeaſe the general impulſe that prevailed in my favour, by requeſting that the matter might have a legal hearing: ſuch, however, Gentlemen, was the fact. I was conveyed to the public houſe, the Brown-Bear, in Bow-ſtreet; and however the unhappy circumſtance of my withdrawing from thence may have hitherto operated to my diſadvantage; I truſt that when the circumſtances of the caſe are duly and candidly conſidered it will loſe that effect; I found myſelf there under a charge that I clearly perceived looked up to ſomething for its ſupport, beyond facts and circumſtances; I had juſt ſeen a ſtriking proof what prejudice may be attached to a name, and it was impoſſible for me to ſay how far it might not extend. Under apprehenſion at once natural and alarming, an opportunity occurred to enable me to withdraw; and I embraced it, Unfortunately embraced it! I broke no goal nor watch-houſe on the occaſion, no judicial proſecution or commitment had taken place; and I truſt that it may be fairly conſtrued rather as a retreat from prejudice, than as a flight from accuſation. In leaving that place, Gentlemen, I neither uſed violence or pecuniary influence, whatever has been ſuggeſted to the contrary; and here it is impoſſible for me to forbear moſt ſolemnly declaring, in the preſence of the Court and the World, that the unhappy man who was convicted for ſuffering me to eſcape, was neither wilfully nor wittingly conſenting thereto; if I was of a diſpoſition to rejoice at the calamity of a fellow creature, I perhaps had ſome reaſon for it there; for this poor man inſtead of doing me any kindneſs, was perhaps one of the greateſt enemies I had in the world; ſo far, Gentlemen of the Jury, as bringing up my name conſtantly in the minds of the public every night at the play-houſe; and if I was 200 miles from London, if I was at any part of the Univerſe, it was immaterial to him; this was ſtill done it was his conſtant rule. It was true that the unhappy man was convicted on evidence, for Townſend ſwore he muſt know of my retreat. Gentlemen of the Jury, this poor man was a tradeſman, and a ſhopkeeper; this took up his attention in the day, and in the evening he attended his duty as Conſtable; and he was beſides that, an old infirm man, and perhaps in the beſt of his days he never poſſeſſed that keenneſs of ſight which they do who are run-

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ners by profeſſion: and I truſt Gentlemen, that ſome little attention will be paid to what I ſay on this occaſion; I have now no longer any intereſt from it, and he, poor man, can bear no part of it; he is freed now from the ſtriſe of life, and not entangled with the perplexities of Juſtice; but it is a tribute due to the memory of an unfortunate man, and I think myſelf bound to pay it, whatever my own caſe may be. And, Gentlemen of the Jury, it is with very great concern indeed, that I find myſelf under the neceſſity to ſay one thing, which may perhaps appear invidious or impertinent; I wiſh not to ſay any thing that may look like a reflection on the conduct of the proſecutor; and if his memory had not been of the ſtrange nature that I know it to be; I certainly would not ſay any thing on the occaſion, but it is a memory of the moſt convenient nature; for it can forget circumſtances which happened, becauſe they were in my favour, and can fancy other which never did happen, and it can only remember thoſe which may injure and tend to convict me: I therefore, Gentlemen, am compelled to ſay ſomething about the conduct of the proſecutor; the veneration I feel for the wiſdom and beneficence of the Court, whoſe judgment reſtored me to the deareſt privilege of the ſubject, the trial by jury, will not permit me to ſay any thing concerning the law itſelf, and but little concerning the proſecution: yet thus much I hoped I may be allowed to ſay without concurring the diſpleaſure of the Court; that outlawry is the greateſt poſſible advantage that can be taken by the law of this country, that it ſets aſide the invaluable privilege of the ſubject, the trial by jury, & condemns a man to death unheard; that it was an advantage which the proſecutor derived from real ignorance on my part; that the proſecutor if he had been the moſt vindictive & the moſt cruel man that ever lived in this country, could not have attempted to do more againſt the blackeſt traitor, or the moſt foul murderer that ever appeared in the ſhape of human nature.

Gentlemen of the Jury, I am very far from attempting to extenuate the offence I am charged with; I am conſcious of its enormity; I never will commit it; but I hope I may be allowed to ſay, that there is an immutable diſtinction in crimes: that policy and humanity demand the preſervation of that diſtinction; if I had been the moſt violent, if I had been the moſt inhuman man that ever lived; it was impoſſible that Mr. Le Meſurier could have proceeded to greater extremity than he has done, with reſpect to me. Among the vices incident to human nature, and the crimes which have ſo laviſhly been imputed to me by newſpaper report, there are two which I truſt neither the accuſing ſpirit nor the recording angel need bluſh or weep at on my account; I mean cruelty and calumny which is perhaps the worſt of cruelty; for I have ever been more happy to remove than to caſt aſperſion, and I have never been ſo tenacious of my life, as to fear riſqueting it to ſave a fellow-creature from ruin; this is a conſolation which the united efforts of all the paragraphiſts that now live, or may live hereafter, cannot deprive me; this is a conſolation which has ſupported me through life, and which I truſt will attend me to that bourn from whence no traveller

ler returns.

Gentlemen of the Jury, if Mr. Le Meſurier had wiſhed to have impreſſed you with an idea of his candour, he might effectually have done it, by waving that advantage which ignorance on my part gave; and had he, inſtead of calling an unfortunate fellow-creature before the judgment ſeat, to demand ſentence of death againſt him, and to urge it with all the rigour that a furious mind could dictate; had he omitted this in a moment when the moſt liberal and humane ſentiments ſeemed to prevail in every part of the world; had he done this, you might have had ſome opinion of his candour; it would not have tarniſhed the luſtre of his beneficence, or diminiſhed the fame of his moderation and modeſty. The language of Mr. Le Meſnrier, the council, I will not mention; I am convinced it ſpeaks for itſelf, and will operate more in my favour in any liberal mind, than any thing I can ſay againſt it; and perhaps he has been led to ſuch vehemence by being at once the brother and council of the proſecutor: and I wiſh Gentlemen of the Jury, that Mr. Le Meſurier may not have been adviſed to ſuch extremity from a quarter where of all others it ought not to have proceeded: public juſtice is a good and neceſſary thing, but there is ſomething due to individual juſtice; and a perſecuting ſpirit ſhould never be ſuffered to overpower the ſacred rights of truth and humanity. And permit me humbly to obſerve, that the queſtion is not now, What the private opinion concerning GEORGE BARRINGTON may be; but whether there is or is not that full, clear, and unequivocal evidence, which the wiſdom of ages has eſtabliſhed as the criterion for Jurors to decide by, and which ought never to be departed from, in any man's caſe whatever. To ſtrain a point to acquit, may proceed from God-like motives: and perhaps men of the moſt vindictive tempers muſt reſpect in others the benevolent impulſe; but to ſtrain a point to condemn, is repugnant to juſtice, to conſcience and to humanity.

## NOT GUILTY.

On Wedneſday morning, September 15, 1790, GEORGE BARRINGTON, was arraigned for ſtealing on the 1ſt of September, a gold watch, chains and Seals, and a metal key, the property of Henry Hare Townſend, Eſquire.

When Mr. Barrington was aſked, as uſual, by the Clerk of the Arraigns, whether he was guilty or not guilty of the felony with which he ſtood charged, he addreſſed Mr. Recorder, (the only Judge on the Bench) as follows:

My LORD,

"It is with great concern that I interrupt the buſineſs of the Court for a ſingle moment, but I am under the neceſſity of ſtating to your Lordſhip, that when I was taken into cuſtody on ſuſpicion of this felony, every article about my perſon was taken from me: and although the gentleman who is my accuſer, did not attempt to ſay my money was loſt, my money was alſo taken from me; and although I have made application that this money may be reſtored,

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it is however ſtill detained; by which detention, my Lord, I have been hindered from taking thoſe proper meaſures for my defence, and from obtaining that legal aſſiſtance, which my unfortunate ſituation peculiarly requires.

*Mr. Recorder.* Mr. Barrington it is impoſſible for me to decide previous to your trial, what is your property; but when your proſecutor appears, every thing which has been taken from you, and which is not neceſſary to be identified on your trial, ſhall be reſtored to you.

George Law, the conſtable, produced the articles above mentioned, as alſo a ſilk purſe with 20 guineas, which were taken from Mr. Barrington, at the ſame time he was taken into cuſtody.

*Mr. Recorder.* Mr. Barrington, I ſhall order your money to be returned to you.

The 20 guineas were accordingly handed over to the Priſoner, who, after counting them, ſaid, My Lord, I thank you.

On Friday, Barrington was put to the bar, and the indictment was read as before.

HENRY HARE TOWNSEND, ESQ. ſworn.

On the 1ſt of September, I was at Enfield Marſh, on account of the races; I believe it was near two o'clock, that is the time that is fixed for the horſes to ſtart: I was on foot; I went on the ground in a phæton; I got out of the phæton, and was walking about. I did not miſs my watch till I was ſpoke to by a Mr. Blades; I miſſed it from my waiſtcoat pocket; I had a new pair of leather breeches on, and was afraid the ſeals would dirt them; it was a gold watch and chain, and metal key; I felt my watch in my pocket after I came on the ground: I think it muſt have been a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes before I miſſed it; I recovered my watch again, but I do not recollect who produced it to me; the watch was given to Lady Lake, and ſhe took it home with her; and when we took Mr. Barrington before the Juſtice, I ſent for the watch, and the watch was given to me by a ſervant.

WALDUCK ſworn.

I am coachman to Mr. Townſend, I knew nothing of the matter till I helped to take the priſoner to the booth; I had one hand on his collar, and the other hold of his right hand, which was open. He could have nothing at all in his right hand. I was left in care of him, I put him at the back of the booth, and there was a carpet nailed at the back of that, I ſaw the watch drop between Mr. Barrington and the carpet, it apparently fell on the left ſide of him behind him, I ſaw it as it jingled down before it reached the ground.

MARY DANDY.

I was in the next booth to that in which the priſoner was brought in, I was but a very little way off him, there was nobody between him and me, nothing but the partition, I was next the partition, the priſoner was ſideways to me when he dropped the watch on his ſide; he dropped the watch from his hand; I told him of it at the ſame time; I cannot recollect which hand, his hand was by the ſide of him at the ſame time I ſaw it drop from him, and I mentioned it to him at the time.

*The Priſoner's Defence.*

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip and you Gentlemen of the Jury, to favour me with your attention for a little time. The ſituation of every perſon who have the misfortune to ſtand here, is extremely diſtreſſing and aukward; mine is ſo in a peculiar degree; if I am totally ſilent, it may be conſidered perhaps as a proof of guilt, and if I preſume to offer thoſe arguments which preſent themſelves to my mind, in my defence, they may not perhaps be favoured with that attention which they might deſerve; yet I by no means, diſtruſt the candour and benevolence of the Jury, and therefore I beg leave to proceed to ſtate the circumſtances of the caſe as they occur to me, not doubting but they will meet with ſome degree of credit, notwithſtanding the unhappy ſituation I am in.

Gentlemen, I was on the Race Ground at Enfield, obſerving the race on the day that the indictment mentions, where I found myſelf ſurrounded by Mr. Townſend and numbers of others; Mr. Townſend ſaid, "Your name is Barrington, and you have taken, my watch!" I told him he was right as to my name, but he accuſed me unjuſtly: however I would go any where with him; I was removed from thence to a ſtand from whence the races were viewed; it conſiſted of two booths, and they were ſeperate from each other with only a railing, elbow high; and it is a great misfortune to me, gentlemen of the jury, that you were not able to obſerve the ſituation of thoſe booths; for if you had, you would have found it nearly impoſſible that ſome circumſtances which have come from the witneſſes could be true; I was cloſe to the railing that ſeperated the two booths, and ſome perſon ſaid, "Here is a watch!" This watch Mr. Townſend claimed, and ſaid it was his, I was removed from thence to the Angel, at Edmonton, where the examination took place, and I am very ſorry to be under the neceſſity of obſerving, that a very material difference has taken place in the depoſitions delivered that day before the magiſtrate. A witneſs, the coachman, poſitively declared that he did not ſee this watch in my hand, that he did not ſee me take it from my pocket, that he did not ſee it drop from the perſon, but that he ſaw it on the ground, and he might have gone ſo far as to ſay he ſaw it fall; I took the liberty of aſking him one queſtion, whether he had ſeen this watch in my hand, whether he had ſeen it fall from me? He declared he did not. I then aſked him, whether he could take upon himſelf to ſwear, from the ſituation he ſtood in at the adjoining booth, that this watch might not have dropped from ſome other perſon, he declared he could not obſerve any ſuch thing. Gentlemen, with reſpect to the evidence of Kendrick, he made the ſame declaration then. Mr. Townſend has brought me here, under the charge of having committed felony; he has told you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that he loſt a watch out of his pocket, and that pocket is a waiſtcoat pocket; that he was in a very extraordinary ſituation; that he was on the race ground, where certainly the greateſt decorum is not always obſerved; and he was alſo in a ſituation which expoſed him more to the preſſure he complained of, than any other perſon; for, inſtead of his horſe being

being in the poſſeſſion of his jockey or groom, he attended it himſelf; and I muſt beg leave to obſerve Gentlemen of the Jury, that it is a cuſtom where people bet money on Races, to wiſh to ſee the horſes immediately after the heat is over; ſo that the preſſure which Mr. Townſend had, or what he thought he had from me could not appear very extraordinary; and I am under the neceſſity of ſaying his fancy has rather been improved on the occaſion, With reſpect Gentlemen, to the laſt witneſs that has appeared, I will not ſay any thing on the occaſion; that will reſt entirely upon you. It was a circumſtance, however of a moſt extraordinary nature, that this perſon ſhould never come forward till the preſent moment; and whether the contradictions and ſtrange accounts ſhe has given of herſelf, are ſuch as to entitle her to any credit, particularly in a ſituation where the life or liberty of another is at ſtake, is not for me to obſerve upon.

Gentlemen of the Jury, it may perhaps be expected by many perſons in this place, that I ſhould ſay a great deal about preposſeſſion and newſpaper reports, and if I had the ability to do it, perhaps I ſhould not be blamed: for he who has been the unhappy object of much defamation, has ſurely a right to deprecate its baneful effects;—where much pains have been taken to defame, ſome pains may ſurely be allowed to abate that defamation. Gentlemen, that it has been the hard lot of ſome unhappy perſons, to have been convicted of crimes they did really not commit, leſs through evidence than ill-natured report, is doubtleſs certain; and doubtleſs there are many reſpectable perſons now in court, fully convinced of the truth of that obſervation. Such times it is to be hoped are paſt; I dread no ſuch conviction in my own perſon; I am well convinced of the noble nature of a Britiſh Court of Juſtice; the dignified and benign principles of its Judges; and the liberal and candid ſpirit of its Jurors.

Gentlemen, life is the gift of God, and liberty its greateſt bleſſing; the power of diſpoſing of both, or either, is the greateſt man can enjoy. It is alſo advantageous that, great as that power is, it cannot be better placed, than in the hands of an Engliſh Jury for they will not exerciſe it like tyrants who delight in blood, but like generous and brave men, who delight to ſpare rather than deſtoy? and who, not forgetting they are men themſelves, lean, when they can, to the ſide of compaſſion. It may be thought, gentlemen of the jury, that I am applying to you paſſions and if I had the power to do it, I would not fail to employ it; the paſſions animate the heart, to the paſſions we are indebted for the nobleſt actions; and to the paſſions we owe our deareſt and fineſt feelings: and when it is conſidered, the mighty power you now poſſeſs, whatever leads to a cautious and tender diſcharge of it, muſt be thought of great conſequence; as long as the paſſions conduct us on the ſide of bene volence, they are our beſt, our ſafeſt, and our moſt friendly guides. Gentlemen of the Jury, Mr. Townſend has depoſed that he loſt his watch, but how, I truſt is by no means clear: I truſt Gentlemen, you will conſider the great, the almoſt impoſſibility

that having had the watch in my poſſeſſion for ſo long a time, time ſufficient to have concealed it in a variety of places, to have conveyed it to town, it ſhould ſtill be in my poſſeſſion. You have heard from Mr. Townſend, that there was an interval of at leaſt half an hour between the time of loſing the watch and my being taken into cuſtody; there is ſomething, Gentlemen, impoſſible in the circumſtance; and, on the other hand, it has ſometimes happened, that remorſe, a generous remorſe, has ſtruck the minds of perſons in ſuch a manner, as to have induced them to ſurrender themſelves into the hands of juſtice, rather than an innocent perſon ſhould ſuffer. It is not therefore, I ſuppoſe, improbable, that if Mr. Townſend loſt his watch by an act of felony, the perſon who had the watch in his poſſeſſion, feeling for the ſituation of an unhappy man, might be induced to place that watch on the ground. But it is by no means certain how Mr. Townſend loſt his watch, whether by an act of felony, or whether by accident, it might have fallen into the hands of ſome other perſon, who, feeling for my unhappy ſituation, might have been induced to reſtore it. I humbly hope that the circumſtances of the caſe, are ſuch as may induce a ſcrupulous Jury to make a favourable deciſion; and I am very well convinced that you will not be led by any other circumſtances than thoſe of the preſent caſe, either from reports of former misfortunes, or by the fear of my falling into ſimilar ones. I am now juſt 32 years of age, (ſhall be ſo next month); it is nearly half the life of man, it is not worth while being impatient to provide for the other half, ſo far as to do any thing unworthy. Gentlemen, in the courſe of my life I have ſuffered much diſtreſs, I have felt ſomething of the viciſſitudes of fortune, and now from obſervation I am convinced, upon the whole, there is no joy but what ariſes from the practice of virtue, and conſiſts in the felicity of a tranquil mind and benevolent heart; ſources of conſolation which the moſt proſperous circumſtances do not always furniſh, and which may be felt under the moſt indigent. It will be my ſtudy, Gentlemen, to poſſeſs them; nor will the heavieſt affliction of poverty, pain, or diſgrace, cauſe me to part with reſolutions founded on the deepeſt reflection, and which will end but with life; I will periſh on the pavement before I will deviate from them. For my own part, whatever your verdict may be, I truſt I ſhall be enabled to meet it with a firmneſs of mind; he, indeed, has little to fear from death, whoſe fame is tarniſhed, and who has endured the ceaſeleſs abuſe of unfeeling minds; when heaven accepts contrition, it receives into favour when it pardons; but man, more cruel than his Maker, purſues his offending brother with unrelenting ſeverity, and marks a deviation from rectitude with a never dying infamy, and with unceaſing ſuſpicion and reproach, which ſeem to exclude from the pale of virtue. Gentlemen of the Jury, the thought, though death may appal the rich and proſperous, but on the other hand, the unfortunate cannot have much to fear from it; yet the tenderneſs of nature cannot be quite ſubdued by the utmoſt degree of human reſolution, and I cannot be inſenſible to the woes which muſt be felt by an affectionate companion, and an infant offspring, & there is beſides a principle in human nature, ſtronger even than

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the fear of death, and which can hardly fail to operate ſome time or other in life; I mean the deſire of good fame, under that laudable influence. Gentlemen, if I am acquitted, I will quickly retire to ſome diſtant land, where my name and misfortunes will be alike unknown: where harmleſs manners ſhall ſhield me from the imputation of guilt, and where prejudice will not be liable to miſrepreſentation, and I do now aſſure you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I feel a cheering hope, even at this awful moment, that the reſt of my life will be ſo conducted, as to make me as much an object of eſteem and applauſe, as I am now the unhappy object of cenſure and ſuſpicion. GUILTY.

On Wedneſday, September 22d being the ſeventh day of this Seſſions, this Priſoner *George Barrington*, was ſet to the Bar.

*Mr. Recorder.* George Barrington, the ſentence of the Court upon you, is, that you be tranſported for the term of ſeven years to parts beyond the ſeas to ſuch place as his Majeſty, with the advice of his privy Council ſhall think fit to declare and appoint.

*Mr. Barrington.* My Lord, I had a few words to ſay, why ſentence of death ſhould not be paſſed upon me; I had much to ſay, though ſhall ſay but little on the occaſion: Notwithſtanding I have the beſt opinion of his Lordſhip's candour, and have no wiſh or pleaſure in caſting a reflection on any perſon whatever; but I cannot help obſerving, that it is the ſtrange lot of ſome perſons through life that with the beſt wiſhes, the beſt endeavours, and the beſt intentions they are not able to eſcape the envenomed tooth of calumny; whatever they ſay or do is ſo twiſted and perverted from the reality, that they will meet with cenſures and misfortunes, where perhaps they were entitled to ſucceſs and praiſe. The world, my Lord has given me credit for much more abilities than I am conſcious of poſſeſſing; but the world ſhould alſo conſider that the greateſt abilities may be ſo obſtructed by the mercenary nature of ſome unfeeling minds, as to render them entirely uſeleſs to the poſſeſſor. Where was the generous and powerful man that would come forward and ſay, you have ſome abilities which might be of ſervice to yourſelf and others, but you have much to ſtruggle with, I feel for your ſituation, and will place you in a condition to try the ſincerity of your intentions, and as long as you act with diligence and fidelity you ſhall not want for countenance and protection; But my Lord, the die is caſt! I am prepared to meet the ſentence of the Court with reſpectful reſignation, and the painful lot aſſigned me I hope with becoming reſolution.

Mr. Barrington bowed and retired.

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The following is a Copy of a Letter from GEORGE BARRINGTON, to a Gentleman in the County of YORK.

*Cape of Good-Hope, 1ſt July, 1791.*

DEAR SIR.

I ANTICIPATE the ſurpriſe you muſt feel at the receipt of a letter from this part of the Globe, but I am inclined to hope it will prove an agreeable ſurpriſe. I have reaſon to conclude, that

at my old friend REPORT, with its uſual accuracy—its particular attention to every matter which concerns me, has pronounced me totally loſt, or, to uſe a ſea-phraſe, that I am by this time *faſe in Davy Jones's locker*. A time, therefore, that brings you authentic intelligence to the contrary, may not be quite unacceptable.—You have favoured me with ſome ſhare in your eſteem? and you will do me juſtice to believe, that I cannot be inſenſible to your merit. And I aſſure you, Dear Sir, that about this time twelvemonth, I had flattered myſelf ſtrongly with the agreeable hope of renewing ſome of thoſe convivial hours I have had the pleaſure of paſſing with you.—But,—How uncertain are all human expectations! How ſoon are the brighteſt proſpects clouded! and what ſudden, ſurpriſing revolutions will ſometimes happen, in the affairs of nations, as well as individuals!——If ever there was a man who ſeemed deſtined to encounter difficulties, and to ſtruggle with diſappointments—that man is myſelf. At the very moment I was going to Doncaſter, ſome unlooked for circumſtances fruſtrated my intention; ſo I commiſſioned an acquaintance, who was paſſing that way, to call on you with my reſpects, and the caſh you were ſo kind as to advance ſome time before, on my account. He aſſured me he would not fail; and I hope he has been punctual.

A month had ſcarcely elapſed afterwards, when the unfortunate affair took place which has compelled me to become a *circumnavigator*. Perhaps I am wrong to call it *unfortunate*; perhaps all is beſt that happens.—But I leave you to judge, Sir, what I muſt feel, when we weighed anchor at Spithead,—and our ſails ſwelled with that wind which was to waft me, for ever, perhaps, from every thing that was dear to man! God knows what a number of painful circumſtances I had then to combat; but ſurely they were ſufficient to diſmay the ſtouteſt heart.—If I was not pennyleſs, I was at leaſt next door to it; not being poſſeſſed of a dozen guineas, including caſh, neceſſaries, and property of every kind.—What a ſtock for ſo vaſt a voyage! What a proviſion—to carry me from one end of the world to the other—and to lay a foundation for future ſubſiſtence! I was at the ſame time in ſo impaired a ſtate of health, as to *damn* the *probability* that I ſhould ſurvive a month in ſo comfortleſs a condition!—Theſe, however, were the leaſt of my afflictions; yet it was then I found what the heart was capable of enduring—what amazing reſources it could ſtrike out, to ſupport itſelf under the worſt embarraſſments! Till that hour I never thoroughly knew that the mind was indeed a kingdom in itſelf;—it told me that life, at the beſt, was nothing more than a voyage or a journey,—and, however rough to ſome, or ſmooth to others the road might prove, it muſt ſtill have an end;—and, where was the difference then?

The world imagined I had done it ſome injury; but however it might have been magnified by the tongue of detraction, the balance between us, in that reſpect, was more equal than was generally ſuppoſed, for I alſo had met ſome injuries, and thoſe of as harſh a nature as any I ever inflicted.—But complaint was childiſh; and, I knew, it was by manly fortitude, not petulent repining, that great

difficulties

difficulties were to be ſurmounted. The ills I had done, or the ills I had received, were come to a criſis. My own miſconduct I might regret, and time, poſſibly, might repair; but I could not recal it. And the injuries I had received, in the courſe of my life, had always proceeded from perſons who were not worth caſting away a thought upon. So I baniſhed from my mind every idle vexatious idea, and every motion of reſentment and ill nature.—You, virtuous Europeans! I hope, will not be leſs generous than a poor baniſhed ſinner; you will pardon me, I truſt, the many ruffianly deeds I have done,—the many friends I have betrayed,—the many houſes I have fired,—the many murders I have committed,—and the many treaſons I have conſpired, againſt my ſovereign and the nation.——To be ſerious, ſir, I left England, and Europe, without a ſpark of malevolence in my mind againſt any creature whatever; wiſhing every good heart as much happineſs as it could wiſh itſelf, and every bad one to become better; perfectly reſigned to whatever might happen; and not without hope in the kindneſs of providence. With this temper I committed myſelf to the winds and waves.—and with this temper I hope, I ſhall deſcend to the grave; and I am very eaſy about where that *grave* may happen,—whether in Europe—in New South Wales—or in the bottom of the ocean. To my thinking, it is of little conſequence where the *reſiduum* lies, if the *ſpirit* aſcends to Heaven.

We have now been three months and two days at ſea, without putting into, or almoſt without ſeeing any land, till we arrived here. It has pleaſed God to preſerve me in a wonderful manner, under ſuch complicated affliction as I had to ſtruggle with; and our voyage, ſo far, has exceeded my moſt ſanguine expectations. I find myſelf now, at the Cape of Good-Hope, in much better health than when I left England, and in ſuitable ſpirits,—in as compoſed, if not as cheerful ſpirits as ever I was in my life. The gout and rheumatiſm, with that dreadful diſorder, the ſcurvy, which too often makes ſuch cruel havoc at ſea, I never had a touch of, and ſtill, thank Heaven, am as great a ſtranger to them as ever, as far as relates to myſelf. I have had no illneſs of any ſort ſince we ſailed, not even an hour of the uſual ſea-ſickneſs; and I know you will feel pleaſure from hearing, that it has pleaſed God to raiſe me up valuable friends, even in this remote region.

Our ſhip is moored at preſent in a fine bay, completely ſheltered on all ſides, by hills and mountains of various figures, forming a ſingular and very romantic view.—Here we take in water, vegetables, and every other refreſhment ſo agreeable to people who have been a long time at ſea, and eſpecially to thoſe who have been uſed to the comforts of what is uſually called good living.—Here is tolerable beef, and as fine well-fed mutton as ever I ſaw in England. A very large ſheep, which we have laid in for the uſe of our meſs, coſt four dollars. As for ſuch vegetables as carrots, cabbages and onions, they are not to be excelled in any part of the world: and the ſame may be ſaid of the fruits, particularly ſweet oranges, and pears as fine, and by many degrees the largeſt I ever ſaw before. Yet it is now the very depth of what they call winter; though from the beautiful verdure of the cultivated ſpots, and the mildneſs of the ambient air, an Engliſhman would be apt to conclude, it was Spring entering into Summer.—I have drank your health in a bumper of choice Cape wine, and you were ſometimes remembered during the voyage—over a can of grog. You will ſcarcely

believe

believe, ſir, that attack, ſo much eſteemed in Europe, can be had in here for half a dollar per gallon; ſuch, however, is the correct fact.—There are in the bay with us, two ſhips (which have been at Port Jackſon with people,—have ſince touched at China,—and are now on their return to England,) the Lady Juliana and the Neptune, which afford us an excellent opportunity of writing home. But,—why ſhould I ſay *home*? What is England,—or Ireland,—or Scotland, to me now? Though I wiſh their proſperity as much as the richeſt of their inhabitants, yet that is my country where I can find content, and content is confined to no particular country, it may be excluded from a palace,—it may be found in a wilderneſs. Thank Heaven, I am not much influenced by local prejudices.—The nearer we approach the deſtined land where in proceſs of time, every man is to ſit under the ſhade of his own vine and his own fig-tree, the more favourable the account becomes;—but I ſhall ſuſpend my opinion till I can judge from my own obſervation. There is no doubt but the country is very romantic, and the air ſalubrious; and theſe are material points. It is expected that in leſs than two months we ſhall arrive there.

You find, Dear Sir, though in a ſtate of captivity, I am ſtill poſſeſſed of two of life's greateſt bleſſings,—health and a tranquil mind. Sweet hope like a faithful, generous companion has conſtantly attended me, in all my troubles, & ſtill continues unſhaken by my ſide. And why ſhould I deſpair who am yet in the prime of years. The united efforts of falſehood, malice, and rancour, have not been able to deprive me of life or health,—of the eſteem and good wiſhes of the liberal part of the world,—or even of that firmneſs of mind, which the ſmiles of fortune cannot give, and her frowns cannot take away.—I have the ſatisfaction to know, that my heart never was by any means ſo black as ſome blacker hearts have ſuggeſted,—and as for my life, it is in the care of providence. Death is the grand ultimatum of the wealth and the poverty—the pleaſure and the pain of the world, this muſt happen to every one; and they who live longeſt, will perhaps have moſt reaſon to ſay, that 'tis "All vanity and vexation of ſpirit."——How many did I leave behind, in Europe, in ample poſſeſſion of beauty—youth—health—and ſplendour, who have ſince experienced by the gripe of death, how vain a thing life is! I ſincerely hope, Dear Sir that you, and the whole of your amiable family are hearty and well. If wiſhes had power, mine would not be wanting to make you as happy as your own deſire. But you have one of the greateſt poſſeſſions in the world—a worthy heart—with it a man can not be very unhappy in the roughеſt ſtorm of adverſity; and without it, you may depend, that riches, titles, and ſucceſs, can impart but an empty ſatisfaction.—If I live till New-Year's Day, I will drink your health at the Antipodes, though it be but in the cryſtal element I have ſometimes done it in a more exhilerating, though not, perhaps, in a more ſafe or wholeſome beverage.——Farewell, Dear Sir? Whatever climate or circumſtances I may be in, I ſhall not ceaſe to be,—with ſincere regard and eſteem,

Your obliged and moſt obedient Servant,

GEO. BARRINGTON.

PS. I underſtand it was reported in the papers, that when I came on board, my hair was cut off, and my clothes taken away. But nothing of the kind happened to me. I was permitted to retain both; and continue to this hour to meet every indulgence that can ſoften my ſituation.—My reſpects and warmeſt wiſhes wait on all friends.

FINIS.